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With the Author's kind regards
R. J.

AN HISTORICAL ESSAY

ON THE

Hiberry Companies of London,

WITH A SHORT HISTORY OF THE

Worshipful Company of Cutlers

OF LONDON,

AND COMBINING AN ACCOUNT OF ITS

CHARTERS, FUNDAMENTAL LAWS, BYE-LAWS,
ESTATES, AND CHARITIES.

MOTTO:

“Pour Parvenir a' Bonne Foy.”

(“ TO KEEP GOOD FAITH.”)

BY

R. J. CHEESWRIGHT,

A LIVERYMAN OF THE CUTLERS' COMPANY.

1881.

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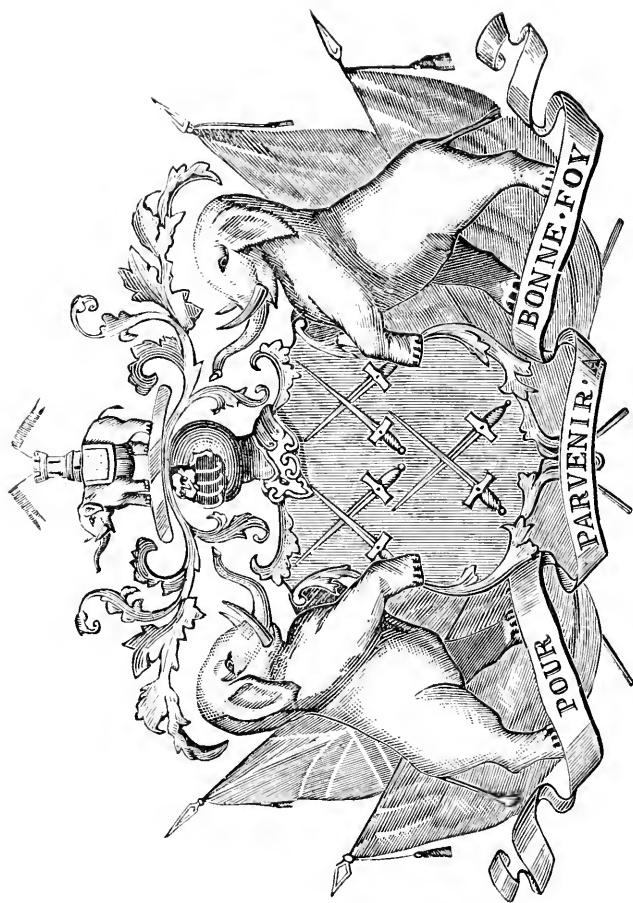
OF THE

Worshipful Company of Cutlers
of London,

BY THEIR MOST OBEDIENT SERVANT,

R. J. CHEESWRIGHT.

171883



Introduction.

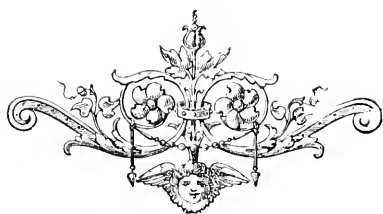
SINCE I was first enrolled as a Liveryman of the Ancient Company of Cutlers, I have constantly lamented the want of a history which could make the Members thereof somewhat acquainted with the origin of the Company, and having for some years been favoured with frequent opportunities of acquiring information respecting the concerns of the Company, I have felt it would be interesting to many of my Brother Liverymen also to become acquainted with some particulars of the Ancient Guild to which they have the honour to belong.

I have accordingly collected a few remarks on the Livery Companies of London generally, with an account of the Incorporation of the Cutlers' Company—its Charters, Fundamental Laws, Bye-Laws, Estates, and Charities.

I now present it to my Brethren of the Company, and should it have the good fortune to receive their approbation, I shall consider the time devoted to its composition as having been well employed, and esteem myself amply rewarded for my labour.

R. J. CHEESWRIGHT.

CROYDON, 1881.





The Livery Companies of London.

“ Individuals may form communities ; but Institutions must found a Nation.”

THE LIVERY COMPANIES OF LONDON hold a high rank in the history of the City of London. Their wealth, the important trusts reposed in them, the noble charities and foundation schools they support, and their connection with the civic constitution of the Metropolis, make them not only of primary interest to every Liveryman, but when it is considered that they had the earliest share in laying the foundation of British commerce, that all trade originally concentrated in their fraternities, that their records are for the most part of remote antiquity, and afford pictures of the government, religious customs, habits and expenses of former times, it will be seen that few subjects are more important in a national point of view, or admit of more entertaining illustration. Not only does the history of the Companies offer a mass of most important information as to the trading interests of the community, but the ancient Charters themselves, although usually conceived to be the reverse of entertaining, disclose various curious facts, illustrating the simplicity of early times, and of the infant state of commerce. The City Records, and the valuable Collections in the Corporation and

Their Origin
and Objects.

other Libraries, will most amply repay a perusal on this subject, as detailing the manner in which the Companies were first formed into Societies, their places of meeting before the erection of Halls, the curious customs which appertained amongst them (not the least of which was the admission of Sisters as Associates in the Fraternities), their feasts, their set mode of dress, or wearing a *Livery*—from which they derive their name—their religious ceremonies, their pageants, and the glorious part they have played in upholding the rights and privileges of the community against oppression and wrong.

Gilds.

The Livery Companies of London derive their origin from the early associations termed *Gilds*, which were either *Ecclesiastic* or *Secular*.

The *Ecclesiastical* Gilds were founded for Devotion and Almsdeeds.

The *Secular* Gilds were formed for purposes of trade and almsdeed. The whole of these associations were at first composed of persons *actually* and not *nominally* professing the trades from which they took denomination. The Charters furnish abundant information as to the kind of authority exercised by the Gilds before such Grants were made, and also of the manner in which they governed themselves.

Their
Antiquity.

These Gilds are of the most ancient repute. In the reign of Henry II they are spoken of as *common Institutions*. In the same reign the Exchequer History gives a list of 18, which were amerced as “adulterine,” or set up without the King’s License.

Their
Charters.

Various Companies received their Charters from Henry II, John, Henry III, Edward I, Edward II, Edward III, Richard II, Henry IV, Henry V, Queen Elizabeth, James I, Philip and Mary, and others.

The Steel Yard Merchants settled in London in A.D. 967, dealing in grain, flax, cloth, and linen;

they swore to remain unmarried. Gradually this Gild decayed, and in 1552 was dissolved. The Mercers, in the year 1172, held lands granted by Gilbert a'Beckett (Father of the great Archbishop.) A few years later, in 1226, a quarrel took place between the Goldsmiths and Merchant Taylors (then called the Linen Armourers.) Each party—assisted by other Companies—met on an appointed night to the number of 500 men, completely armed, and proceeded to fight manfully. Many were killed and wounded on each side, nor could they be parted until the Sheriffs came and apprehended the ring-leaders, thirteen of whom were condemned and executed.

The purposes and functions of the Gilds were manifold; they supported, protected, and regulated trade; preserved trade secrets, and generally watched over the interest of their particular Craft or Fraternity; searching for spurious goods, testing weights and measures, and imprisoning dishonest traders.

The Gilds were of the greatest service to trade in ancient times, they settled disputes between Master and Workmen—they upheld the Apprenticeship system as being the best for producing skilled labour, and meeting at their respective Halls, while they enjoyed the festive board, they discussed business matters, thus fostering the social virtues, and increasing the mutual interest of Master and Workmen.

The Master of the Gild (under the name of Alderman), was for the time being omnipotent; members of the Gild could not leave London without his permission; the apprentices were strictly ruled; they were bound at the age of 14, and having served their seven years, and being of age and good name, they were then sworn and admitted as Freemen. If a man wanted to follow any Craft in the City, or to enjoy any of the benefits of Citizenship, he must belong to a Gild.

Their
Members.

The reign of Edward III, the great dawn of the fine arts and of commerce, gave birth to an entire reconstruction of the trading fraternities, and of the change of name from *Gilds* to *Crafts* and *Mysteries*, and the substitution for the old title of Alderman that of Master or Warden. Special Charters were granted by Edward III, but the Chartering of the Gilds was not the only favor granted by that Monarch. Having found them to be the mainspring of the trade and industry of his Kingdom, he determined to raise them in public estimation. He became a member of the Linen Armourers (now the Merchant Tailors), which was the first Company to boast a Sovereign amongst its members. Richard II afterwards became a member of the same Company, and the great, both Clergy and Laity, as well as the principal Citizens, hastened to become enrolled as members of the various fraternities. The Skinners, the Merchant Tailors, and the Mercers, are said to exhibit most princes and nobility in their lists near this time; other Companies had a greater proportion of City dignitaries. The Grocers, towards the close of Edward the III's reign, enumerated no less than 16 Aldermen amongst its members, the Cutlers Company doubtless receives no inconsiderable share of such members.

Very many distinguished personages have in our own time taken up the Freedom of the Companies and become enrolled as members thereof.

In the reign of Richard II the Inrolment of the Companies' Charters was first insisted upon.

The following list will shew the date of the Incorporation of a considerable number of the Companies, viz. :—

The Bakers...	...	1155	...	Henry II.
The Goldsmiths	...	1180	...	Henry II.
The Butchers	...	1180	...	Henry II.
The Sadlers	...	1272	...	Edward I.

The Skinners	...	1327	...	Edward III.
The Carpenters	...	1344	...	Edward III.
The Grocers	...	1345	...	Edward III.
The Vintners	...	1365	...	Edward III.
The Fishmongers	...	1384	...	Richard II.
The Mercers	...	1393	...	Richard II.
The Salters	...	1394	...	Richard II.
The Haberdashers	...	1407	...	Henry IV.
The Cordwainers	...	1410	...	Henry IV.
The Cutlers	...	1413	...	Henry V.
The Armourers	...	1423	...	Henry VI.
The Brewers	...	1438	...	Henry VI.
The Drapers	...	1439	...	Henry VI.
The Leathersellers	...	1442	...	Henry VI.
The Barber Surgeons		1461	...	Edward IV.
The Ironmongers	...	1463	...	Edward IV.
The Tallow Chandlers		1463	...	Edward IV.
The Merchant Tailors		1466	...	Edward IV.
The Dyers	...	1472	...	Edward IV.
The Pewterers	...	1474	...	Edward IV.
The Cooks	...	1480	...	Edward IV.
The Clothworkers	...	1482	...	Edward IV.
The Joiners	...	1569	...	Elizabeth.

Their Halls.

The greater part of the Halls which existed before or near the Reformation appear to have been formed from the deserted mansions of the great, and from buildings devoted to religious purposes. *Drapers Hall* was a mansion belonging to Lord Cromwell; *Salters Hall* belonged to the Earl of Oxford; *The Grocers* built their Hall on the site of Lord Fitzwalter's town mansion; the minor companies, in several instances, bought and converted the Halls of the dissolved religious houses into Trade Halls, as, for instance, the *Leathersellers*, who fitted up the fine hall of the Nuns of St. Helens; the *Pinner*s, who occupied the Austin Friars Hall, afterwards called "Pinner's Hall Meeting House"; the *Barber Surgeons*, who built on part of the site

of the Hermitage of St. James-in-the-Wall, and others.

Some of the larger Halls were used for other than trade purposes. By the Parliamentary commanders they were converted into barracks ; by the Puritanical clergy into meeting houses ; and by succeeding Lord Mayors they were occasionally used as temporary Mansion Houses.

Religious
Observances.

The records of the various Companies shew that it was usual with the fraternity to pay very particular attention to religious observances on the occasions of elections, funerals, and obits of deceased members. The obit was the anniversary of the death of an individual, and to observe such a day with prayer, almsgiving, or other commemoration, was "keeping an obit." After the Reformation the Liturgy and sermons took the place of Mass, but these occasions of divine service were not so numerous as under the old system. On public days the Chaplain's duty was to pray for the prosperity of the fraternity. In some Companies a very solemn custom prevailed of calling over the names of the members one by one, and praying for each individually and by name. The Merchant Tailors' books in 1645 record that "The names of the Livery being called over according to ancient custom, after which, in reverent manner, prayer was made by the Chaplain, then some of the ordinances of the Hall being openly read, preparation was made for dinner."

Besides these occasions of public worship prayers were said in the Common Hall. Herbert gives an extract of the prayer used as follows :—" Good Lord, keep this noble City of London, and defend it from greivous plagues and contagious sickness, that we may often in brotherly and true love assemble and meet together to Thy glory and our mutual comfort ; bless this society and brotherhood, and be present

“with us in all our assemblies and councils that we
“may use them to Thy Glory and the discharge of
“our duties.”

The plate belonging to the Companies was frequently chased in accordance with their ecclesiastical character, being ornamented with the figure of a saint or some other religious device.

All royal processions into or through the City afforded an opportunity for the Citizens of London and the Liverymen of the various Companies to display their loyalty.

Pageants.

It is recorded that on the occasion of the marriage of Henry III in 1236, and again on the marriage of his daughter in 1252, the return of Edward I from his victory over the Scots, 1298; the coronation procession of Henry IV in 1399 (when Froissart states “Cheapside to have had seven fountains with red “and white wine”); the entry of Queen Margaret into England in 1466; the entry of Joan, Queen of Henry IV in 1401; on the arrival of Henry V; the coming of the same King from France to London: after the victory of Bosworth, Henry VII; 1485, the Coronation of his Queen, 1487; on the arrival of Princess Katharine from Spain, to marry Prince Arthur 6th of Henry VII; in 1509, when Henry VIII married Katharine (his Brother’s Widow); the Coronation of Lady Anne Boleyn in 1533; and many other interesting occasions, it is stated “That the whole “Commonalty of the City who seem to have been “Liverymen, brought up the rear, clothed in white “gowns and scarlet hoods, with divers conuzances “embroidered on their ‘sleeves.’”

At the Royal Funerals the attendance of the various Companies was also required.

The Warden of one of the Chief Livery Companies was allowed to attend the Lord Mayor as Chief Butler at a Coronation.

In the year 1559 the twelve principal Corporations

of London sent all the same number of Companies, consisting together of 1,500 men, to be mustered in Greenwich Park before the Queen, 800 whereof were pikemen in high armour, 400 harquebusers in coats of mail and helmets, and 200 halberdiers in German rivets. These troops were attended by twenty-eight whiffers, richly dressed, and led by the twelve principal Wardens of the aforesaid Corporations, well mounted, and dressed in black velvet, with six ensigns in white satin, faced with black sarsnet and rich scarves.

Their Feasts.

The Companies, from their wealth and abundant entertainments, became sources of attraction to those who loved the good things of life.

The Election Feasts in the Halls were especially grand, and were partaken of by Royalty and by the first nobility. These Feasts took place after the ceremonies, when the newly-elected Master and Wardens were "crowned with garlands on their heads." Then followed the "Loving Cup," as is still the custom; next the Minstrels and Players.

Various were the delicacies stored above the Salt at the Feasts, including the "Mighty Baron," "Frumentie with Venison," "Brawn Fat," Swan, "Boar," Conger, and Sea Hog.

The Salt or Salt Cellar was a large piece of plate forming a division between the upper and lower parts of the Table. To be seated *above* the Salt was a mark of honor, and our ancestors seem often to have placed persons *below* it in order to mortify them.

During the Feasts the Halls were "aromatized" with a precious Indian wood.

Mention has been made of the introduction of females to the Membership of the Companies. They appear also to have enjoyed the festivities at which they were allowed to be present. The Grocer's ordinances in 1348 show that the "brethren" could introduce their fair acquaintance on paying for their admission.

The Clothworkers gave a grand dinner to James I on his inauguration as a Member of that Company, and it is recorded that in the old Hall of the Company the glorious anthem, "God save the King," was first heard; Dr. John Bull having composed it expressly for the ceremony.

The "Loving Cup" is a great feature in the Feasts of the Companies. It is of Silver or Silver Gilt, and is filled with spiced wine immemorially called "Sack." Immediately after the Dinner and the Grace, the Master and Wardens drink to their visitors "A hearty welcome." The cup is then passed round the table, and each guest, after he has drank, applies his napkin to the mouth of the Cup before he passes it to his neighbour. The more formal practice is for the person who pledges with the loving Cup to stand up and bow to his neighbour, who, also standing, removes the Cover with his right hand and holds it while the other drinks; a custom said to have originated in the precaution to keep the right or "dagger hand" employed that the person who drinks may be assured of no treachery like that practised by Elfrida on the unsuspecting King Edward the Martyr at Corfe Castle, who was slain while drinking. This is also given as the reason for a Cover being placed on the Loving Cup.

It was when the "Loving Cup" (as is still the custom) had gone round that the Minstrels and Players commenced their part of the Entertainments. The Minstrels, who were of various kinds, included in their entries harpers who played and sang in the intervals of the others sounding their cornets, shalms, flutes, horns, and pipes. The Players were generally ecclesiastics, who were the first actors of the middle ages, and an original license from the Master of the Revels in 1662 authorizes "George Bailey and eight "servants to play for one year a play called 'Noah's "Flood.'" The sort of dramas then in fashion often

Their
Government
and Officers.

consisted of single subjects, and made but for one performance.

The government of the various Companies was by bye-laws or ordinances — the preserving of their trade secrets being a primary one, and continued their leading law so long as they remained actual “Working Companies,” whence arose the names of “Mysteries and Crafts,” by which they have been so many years designated. The officers generally consisted of the Alderman (subsequently named Master or Warden), Assistants, a Priest or Chaplain, a Clerk, a Beadle, and a Cook—the latter considered a most important officer in those days.

The Civic authorities exercised an undoubted control over the Companies. The Mayor could fine and imprison the Wardens of Companies at pleasure, and it was common to make presents, or, what in modern times would be called ‘give a bribe’ to the Mayor, in order to obtain favour during his year of Mayoralty.

In the 5th of Henry IV, the absolute control the Mayor had acquired over the Companies was remarkably exemplified in some proceedings which took place on a dispute between the Goldsmiths and the Cutlers; when the former having petitioned the King to confirm their right of search, granted by Edward III, and which they extended to the oversight of the Cutlers, the latter in a counter petition denied such right of oversight to reside anywhere but in the four wardens “de artifice de cotellerie.” Both these petitions being considered by Parliament, it was directed “that a writ should be sent to the Mayor of London, and that he should be empowered, by authority of Parliament, to summon the folk of both the Goldsmiths and the Cutlers mysteries, who should produce their ancient evidences and usages on both sides before him, and which said Mayor should, if needful, certify the result, without delay, to the King in Council, in order that the King, on deliberation, and with the

“advice of the Lords spiritual and temporal, might
“act as the case should require.” The writs to the
Mayor on this occasion, as well on behalf of the
Goldsmiths as the Cutlers, command—“that in con-
“sequence of certain petitions, which had been
“presented to the King in his present Parliament,
“by the Goldsmiths and the Cutlers, and which
“petitions were enclosed, he should, on reading the
“same, do what was right on behalf of each, and
“make return thereof, under his seal, to the King in
“his then Parliament, who would determine there-
“upon.”

The return of the Mayor specified “that by virtue
“of two writs of the Lord the King, directed to
“him, William Ascham, Mayor of London, he had
“inspected the petitions of the Goldsmiths and
“Cutlers, and had caused to appear before him, at
“the Guildhall of the said City, as well the sufficient
“men of the said Mysteries as several other good
“and sufficient aged men of each ward of the City,
“and had had exhibited to him by the said Gold-
“smiths and Cutlers, their charters, inolments, and
“evidences, as well written as not written, concerning
“the rules, usages, assaying and governments of the
“said Mysteries; and by which it appeared to him,
“the Mayor, that the Cutlers had of old times occupied
“their works of gold and silver within the City as the
“changes of time and fashion demanded; and that
“the Wardens of the Mystery of Goldsmiths, for the
“time being, subject to the oversight of the Mayor
“and Aldermen of the said City, had from old times
“been accustomed to have the assay of the gold and
“silver work of the said Cutlers within the City of
“London.”

The Citizens of London by various Royal Grants
obtained the privilege of choosing their own Lord
Mayors and Chief Magistrates. They were elected by
the Court of Aldermen and a number of Commoners

Their
Privileges.

summoned by them out of each ward; but the numbers being often varied at the discretion of the Alderman gave great uneasiness to the Commonalty, for the removing of which the method of election was altered by an Act of Common Council passed in 1476, whereby the manner of electing by the Liverymen of the several Companies was established. By virtue of this Act, the Lord Mayor or Chief Magistrate is annually chosen on Michaelmas Day, for which purpose the Liverymen assemble in the Guildhall on that day, when by holding up of hands they choose two of the Senior Aldermen below the chair, who being returned to the Courts of Lord Mayor and Aldermen, the Senior Alderman is commonly declared Lord Mayor Elect.

The Livery Companies formerly exercised the right of sending members to the Court of Common Council. By a list amongst the City records (50 Edward III), it appears the Companies sending Members in pursuance of their powers were increased from 32 to 48. The Cutlers Company are mentioned in the list as choosing two Members. This right was ultimately taken away, and the Members of the Court of Common Council are now elected by the inhabitant householders of the various wards.

The Parliamentary representatives were also exclusively elected by the Freemen; but this privilege was lost through the operations of the Reform Bill.

It will be interesting to note here that the first grant of a Charter to the City of London was that made by William the Conqueror.

The Livery Companies having gradually increased in numbers, engrossed the trade of the Kingdom and selected the bulk of the Common Council, acquired such wealth and consequence as to attract the especial attention of the government. The custom of forced loans which had been begun by Henry VIII was carried on to a most oppressive extent, and the extracting of money from the trading

corporations became a regular source of supply to the government. Precepts were made on all the Companies alike towards setting the poor to work, towards erecting the Royal Exchange, cleansing the city ditch, projects for discovering new countries, for furnishing naval and military armaments, for men, arms, and ammunition to protect the city, for state and city pageants, for provision of corn and coal, compulsory loans for the government and for the Crown, and various other expedients, were amongst the most prominent by which it was contrived to screw from the Companies their wealth.

Large amounts were also raised by forced loans for the purchase of foreign wheat as a provision of corn for the city. (In a list published in 1545, the Court of Common Council directed a large loan to be raised for this purpose, the Cutlers' proportion being stated in the list at £10.) These precepts were unwillingly complied with, and in 1561 the Mercers caused an application to be made for the return of their money, 'formerly lent.' This was answered by another precept being made.

Besides the arbitrary operation of precepts, both Elizabeth and her immediate successors made it a business of their reigns to influence the selection of officers and the control of the property of the Companies. Instances are recorded of this nature with respect to the Ironmongers, the Merchant Tailors, the Grocers, and other Companies; these attempts were finally resisted and ultimately ceased.

The disastrous effects of the reign of Charles and of the civil wars was much felt by the Livery Companies; precepts were made for large amounts and had to be met by each Liveryman; thus for one loan of £40,000 the Ironmongers' proportion was from £10 to £15 each on those who had fined for Master; £6 18s. 4d. on the office of Warden; from each Liveryman £5; and from each Freeman £3.

To furnish the loans thus arbitrarily and rapidly levied, the individuals of the Companies had at this time not only impoverished themselves, but all the fraternities were obliged to sell or pawn their plate.

The Companies took a conspicuous part in the rejoicings to celebrate the Restoration. Charles was, however, scarcely established on the throne than he cast a longing eye on the wealth of the Companies. In 1684 he brought the whole of them under complete subjection to the Crown through the operation of the *quo warranto*—an enquiry into the validity of the City Charter, the result of which rendered the King not only master of London but of all the Corporations in England. Almost all the Companies surrendered their Charters. The new Charters granted by Charles contained such prohibitions as showed that all liberty of action was completely destroyed, and that the Companies were only to exist during the royal pleasure.

The first act of James II (1685) was an attempt to influence the Companies' selection of voters.

The news of the approach of the Prince of Orange in 1688 forced from James II an Act of Restitution, by which all restrictions consequent on the *quo warranto* were repealed. The City Charter was restored, and the Statute 2 of William and Mary passed, which not only reversed the *quo warranto*, but enacted that all and every of the several Companies of the City of London shall be restored to all their Charters and privileges, lands, tenements, and estates.

Tranquility and confidence having been restored after the Accession of William and Mary, and the privileges and rights of corporate bodies firmly established by Parliament, the affairs of the Livery Companies began to improve. During the interval between that time and the present, various minor events and changes have occurred in their separate

histories and government which do not, however, need recapitulation here. May they by their patriotic action, their wisdom in the management of their estates, and their charitable deeds, continue to be, as they most assuredly are, the most powerful and charitable body in the world.

Although, perhaps, not strictly within the scope of the History of the City Companies, a few remarks on the subject of the Great Plague and the Great Fire, and the Monument erected to commemorate the latter event, and by which the interests of the Companies were undoubtedly affected, may not be out of place here.

Addenda.

About the beginning of May, 1665, one of the most terrible plagues that ever affected this, or perhaps any other country, broke out in the City; its ravages were so dreadful that in the course of the year nearly 90,000 persons perished. The King's Court and the Parliament removed from London to Oxford. All business and pleasure were naturally suspended, and it appears the distress of the poorer classes was such that, for the relief of their pressing necessities, the Livery Companies were assessed by the Parliament for various sums of money, and were bound, in addition, to furnish a certain quantity of coals, of which the proportion of the Cutlers was 75 chaldrons.

Great Plague.

In the year 1666, one of the most dreadful conflagrations that ever happened in any age or country broke out in the City. The fire commenced in Pudding Lane, and extended its ravages to the Temple, and northward as far as London Wall; it laid waste and consumed the buildings on four hundred and thirty-six acres of ground, four hundred streets, lanes, &c., thirteen thousand two hundred houses, the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, eighty-six Parish Churches, six Chapels, the magnificent

Great Fire.

buildings of Guildhall, the Royal Exchange, Custom House, divers Hospitals and Libraries, fifty-two of the Companies' Halls, and a vast number of other stately edifices, together with three of the City gates, four stone bridges, and the prisons of Newgate, the Fleet, the Poultry, and Wood Street Compters; the loss of which, together with the merchandise and household furniture, was calculated to amount to ten millions seven hundred and thirty thousand pounds. During the whole of this terrible devastation only six persons lost their lives. The City Companies suffered terribly by the fire. It melted their plate, burnt their records, and laid their premises, from which they chiefly derived their income, in ashes; and to crown their calamities they found themselves overwhelmed with a load of debt (the consequence of the compulsory loans to the Crown), and which they had now no means of paying. By extraordinary exertion, however, by subscriptions and collections amongst themselves, and by the donations of their wealthier members (some of them to great amount), the whole of the Companies had their Halls rebuilt in two or three years, and generally in a superior manner to the former buildings. Their houses and premises also, by granting advantageous leases to the tenants, arose everywhere again with the new Metropolis. As early as 1670 the old order of things was quite restored, and the Companies started on a new course of prosperity.

The Monu-
ment.

The Monument was erected in Fish Street Hill to perpetuate the remembrance of the Fire; the architect was Sir Christopher Wren. In height it is 202 feet from the ground (being 20 feet higher than Trojan's Column at Rome). Within is a large staircase of black marble, containing 345 steps, ten inches and a half broad and six-inch risers, and a balcony within thirty-two feet of the top, which allows room to walk. It was commenced in the year 1671 (Sir Richard

Knight being Lord Mayor of London), and was finished in the year 1677, Sir Thomas Davis being then Lord Mayor.









The Cutlers' Company.

I NOW proceed to give some details concerning the Cutlers' Company.

Before the reign of Henry V there does not appear to be any record of the incorporation of the Cutlers as a Fraternity, but it is stated in the accounts of the City Chamberlain for the year 1355 (there being then 32 Companies) that the Cutlers contributed £4 towards a sum raised as a gift to Edward III for defraying the expenses of carrying on his French Wars, and it is also on record that in 1368 the Cutlers sent two members to the Committee of Common Council.

Antiquity.

The following is an Extract from the Archives of the City of London, Page 217, Letter Book F, Latin and Norman French.

“ 18 Edward III, A.D. 1344.

“ Articles of the Cutlers' Company. Be it remembered that on the Friday next after the Feast of the Decollation of St. John the Baptist (29 August) in the 18th Year of the reign of King Edward the 3rd the Articles of the *Cutlers* underwritten were read before John Hamond, Mayor, Roger de Depham, John de Caustone, and other Alderman, and seeing that they were befitting, “ were accepted and entered in these words.”

(Then follows the Articles.)

On the 1st of December, 1413 (1 Henry 5), on the complaint of the Wardens and good folks of the trade of Cutlers of London, the Freedomship of the City of London, which had been granted to

one William Wysman, a Freeman of the Coursers (Horsedealers), as one who followed their calling, was withdrawn by the Mayor, Alderman, and Chamberlain on the ground that the said William was at that time and before and since of the Craft of the Cutlers, and not of the said trade of Coursers.

John Stowe, in his interesting work, says:—

“ Peace be within thy Walls, and plenteousness
 “ within thy Palaces. Concerning this Company of
 “ Cutlers, I find them to be of great antiquity, and
 “ that they were incorporated in the beginning of
 “ the Reign of Henry V, afterwards confirmed by
 “ King Henry VI, King Henry VIII. King Philip
 “ and Queen Mary, and Queen Elizabeth, and King
 “ James in his 5th year, 8th of February, confirmed
 “ all. The Arms of the Cutlers of London were
 “ granted by Thomas Holme Clarencieux, King of
 “ Arms, the 16th of Edward 4th, the Crest by
 “ Robert Coote Clarencieux, which is an Elephant
 “ bearing a Castle.”

A further extract from *Stowe* says—

“ Knives, for hundreds of years past all memory,
 “ were made in this Kingdom, but coarse and
 “ uncomely. But in the time of James I the best
 “ and finest knives in the world were made in
 “ London. Richard Matthew at Fleet Bridge was
 “ the first Englishman that attained to the skill of
 “ making fine knives and knife hafts, and in the 5th
 “ of Elizabeth he obtained a prohibition against all
 “ strangers and others from bringing any knives into
 “ England from beyond Seas, which until that time
 “ were brought in by ship loads from Flanders and
 “ other places. The same Richard Matthew also
 “ obtained a privilege under the Great Seal for the
 “ making of Knives and Daggers with a new kind of
 “ Haft. But this was much complained of as tend-
 “ ing to the decay and overthrow of the whole
 “ Company of Cutlers within the City, and their
 “ Wives and Children and Apprentices, and that
 “ the prices of Knives would be excessively enhanced,
 “ and so prejudicial to all the Queen’s subjects.”

Maitland in his *History of London* (1750) says of the Cutlers’ Company:—

“ *Cutlers* (18). This Society was incorporated

“ by Letters Patent by the name of the Master,
“ Wardens, and Commonalty of the Mystery of
“ Cutlers of London, and being united to the Haft
“ and Sheath Makers some time after, their Arms
“ were granted by Clarendieux, King at Arms, 1477.
“ This fraternity is govered by a Master, 2 Wardens,
“ and 21 Assistants, to which belongs a Livery of
“ One hundred and ten Members, who upon being
“ admitted pay a Fine of Ten pounds each. They
“ have a convenient and beautiful Hall in Cloak
“ Lane to transact their affairs in.”

The Cutlery trade appears to have been carried on originally in three branches.

Charters.

- 1.—The Forgers of Blades, or Bladers.
- 2.—The Makers of Hafts.
- 3.—The Sheath Makers for Knives, Swords, and Daggers.

These were all incorporated as one united body by King Henry V in the year 1413, by the style and name of “The Master Wardens and Commonalty of the “Mystery of Cutlers of London.”

The following is a list of the various *other* Charters which have been granted to the Company, or of confirmations made of existing Charters.

- By Henry VI in 1422.
- By Henry VIII in 1509.
- By Philip and Mary in 1553.
- By Queen Elizabeth in 1558.
- By James I in 1607.

James II in 1685 revoked all the then existing Charters. In the year 1689, however, William and Mary revoked the last Act of James II, and restored all the privileges granted and confirmed by James I. Queen Anne in 1703 also confirmed all the previous Charters of the Company. Consequently the Charter under which the Company is now governed is that granted by James I in 1607.

This Charter recites that King Henry, after the Conquest the Fifth, having information that by reason of losses that happened to the men of the Mystery of

Cutlers of the City of London by Sea they then were not able to live but by the benevolence of well-disposed people, whereof, he having a princely consideration, did grant that the aforesaid Cutlers should have one perpetual Commonalty of themselves. After various other interesting recitals King James by this Charter graciously constitutes and declares that all and singular the persons of the Commonalty and Mystery of Cutlers of London and the suburbs thereof should for ever thereafter be one body corporate and politic in deed and name, by the style of "The Master " Wardens and Commonalty of the Mystery of Cutlers " of London."

This Charter appointed Thomas Porter, Master, and William Bailey and Thomas Cheshire, Wardens, until the Even of the Holy Trinity following. The following are the names of the first Court of Assistants appointed by the Charter: Richard Hawes, Thomas Greene, John Gardiner, Thomas Asher, Oliver Plunkett otherwise Pluckett, George Ellye, Reginald Greene, Christopher Hatfield, William Hely, John Beeston, Henry Adams, Edward Andrews, Laurence Evans, John Johnson, Nathaniel Matthews, Miles Banks, John Porter, and James Tackley, and Thomas Jadwyn was thereby appointed the first Clerk.

See Appendix "A" for a full Copy of the Charter.

Fundamental Laws and Ordinances.

Fundamental
Laws.

Upon the grant of the before-named Charter by James I various Fundamental Laws were framed by the Commonalty of Cutlers for their government. It appears, however, that in the 19th year of the reign of Henry the Seventh a Statute was passed whereby it was ordained (amongst other things) that no Master, Warden, or Commonalties should take upon themselves to make any Acts or ordinances, unless the same had been examined and approved by the Chancellor or Treasurer of England, or Chief Justices

of either Bench, upon pain of forfeiture of Forty Pounds. In accordance with the requirements of this Act, the various laws and ordinances made by the Commonalty of Cutlers were, at a full Court held at Cutlers' Hall on Friday, the 12th of February, 1702, re-enacted and submitted for approval, and on the 20th March, 1703 (3rd of Queen Anne), they were approved and allowed by the Lord High Treasurer Godolphin and the Chief Justices Sir John Holt and Sir Thomas Trever.

See appendix "B" for a full Copy of the Fundamental Laws and Ordinances.

Bye Laws.

Between the year 1703 when the above Fundamental Laws and Ordinances were approved, and the year 1830, various resolutions of the Court, having the effect of Bye Laws for the governance of the business of the Company having been passed, some of these resolutions were of a conflicting character, and consequently a new set of Bye Laws were framed and consolidated. Again in the year 1857 a similar course was considered expedient. The Consolidated Bye Laws do not, however, make any alterations in the fundamental portions of the Charters or Ordinances.

Bye Laws.

Members of the Company.

Admission to the Company is by—

Patrimony,
Servitude,
Redemption.

Members.

The following is a List of the Fees payable on admission :—

Fees and
Fines.

To the Freedom of the Company—

Freedom.

By Patrimony	...	...	£5	10s.	od.
By Servitude	...	...	£5	10s.	od.
By Redemption	...	...	£35	0s.	od.

Livery.

To the Livery of the Company—

By Patrimony £22 os. od.

By Servitude £22 os. od.

By Redemption £45 os. od.

Stewards.

Formerly five Liverymen had, under the Ordinances, to provide at their mutual charges, one competent and sufficient Feast or Dinner for the Master Wardens, Assistants, and Livery of the Company, to be kept at the Common Hall of the Company on Lord Mayor's Day. This custom was altered some years since. The Court annually appoint five Liverymen as Stewards, and each Liveryman has, in lieu of paying the full cost of the Dinner, to pay a fine of £10 10s. on his appointment as Steward, and he in return receives a ticket for a visitor.

Assistants.

The Fee payable on admission to the Court of Assistants is:—

By Patrimony £41 10s. od.

By Servitude £41 10s. od.

By Redemption £54 os. od.

The Fine payable for refusing to serve the office of Master is £40, and for not serving the office of Warden £20.

Estates and Bequests of the Company.

Estates and Bequests.

The various properties understated have been bequeathed to the Company or purchased by them at the dates named. The following statement shews the date of bequest or purchase, with the present rentals, and the amount of any charge payable therefrom:—

WATLING STREET ESTATE.

1368 & 1400—
Purchase.

Two Houses.

Rental £196

(Subject to a Quit Rent of 11s. per annum, payable to the Duke of Bedford.)

CLOAK LANE AND COLLEGE HILL.

Cloak Lane—Cutlers' Hall and Beadle's Residence. 1451—
Two Houses. Purchase.
College Hill—One House.
Rental £636.

HOUNDSDITCH ESTATE.

(Formerly the Woolpack Tavern, and the Grounds adjoining.)

This Estate was bequeathed to the Cutlers' Company by Mrs. Agnes Carter, widow of Mr. John Carter (a Citizen and Cutler of London), viz. :— 1469—
Bequest.

Houses in Houndsditch—

Cutler Street.
Carter Street.
White Street.
Clothes Exchange.
Synagogue.

The Company purchased Nos. 113 and 114, 1879.
Houndsditch, and Nos. 32 and 33, Cutler Street.
Rental £1,227.

(NOTE.—In the year 1865 a portion of the Houses in White Street were sold to the Metropolitan Railway Company.)

ALDERSGATE STREET ESTATE.

No. 13, Aldersgate Street (portion of premises), 1522—
was bequeathed to the Cutlers Company by Mr. Bequest.
John Monk (Citizen, Cutler, and Waxchandler), for the use of the Company for ever.

The Company purchased the House adjoining the above. 1806—
Purchase.

The Company purchased the House adjoining the above. 1865—
Purchase.

The Company purchased the House adjoining the above. 1876—
Purchase.

Rental £1,000.

FLEET STREET AND FLEET LANE ESTATE.

1566—
Bequest.

This Estate was bequeathed to the Cutlers Company by Mr. Thomas Bucke (Citizen and Cutler of London), subject to an annual charge of £11.

Fleet Street—One House.

Fleet Lane—Four Houses.

(The last-named four Houses have been sold to the London, Chatham, and Dover Railway Company.)

Particulars of the charge of £11:—

£3 6s. 8d. Scholarship in St. John's College,
Cambridge.

£2 os. od. Poor of Fleet Lane.

£2 os. od. Poor of the Parish of Wilburton.

£1 os. od. Christ's Hospital.

£1 os. od. St. Thomas' Hospital.

£1 os. od. St. Sepulchre's Church.

£0 13s. 4d. Armourer and Braziers Company.

£11 os. od.

The amount of the Scholarship has been increased to £30 a year.

Rental £120.

BELLE SAUVAGE ESTATE.

1568—
Bequest.

This Estate was bequeathed to the Cutlers Company by Mr. John Craythorne (Citizen and Cutler, of London), subject to a life interest therein of his widow, Mrs. Margaret Craythorne (who, at his death, gave up such life interest to the Company), and to an annual charge of £19 13s. 4d.

Belle Sauvage Yard—Hotel, &c., now Warehouses.

Naked Boy Court—House, now absorbed in the Belle Sauvage Yard Warehouses.

Ludgate Hill—House and Rooms over gateway.

The following are the particulars of the charge :—

£3	6s. 8d.	Scholarship at Cambridge.
£3	6s. 8d.	Scholarship at Oxford.
£10	0s. 0d.	Poor of St. Bride's Parish for Coals.
£0	15s. 0d.	Debtors in Newgate.
£0	15s. 0d.	Debtors in King's Bench.
£0	15s. 0d.	Debtors in Marshalsea.
£0	15s. 0d.	Debtors in Gate House.
<hr/>		
£19	13s. 4d.	
<hr/>		

The amount of the Scholarships have each been increased to £20 per annum.

Rental £1,167.

It was here that Sir Thomas Wyatt's rebellion was stopped.

The sign of the Belle Sauvage is thus spoken of in No. 28 of the *Spectator* :—

“As for the Bell Savage, which is the sign
 “of a Savage Man standing by a Bell, I was
 “formerly very much puzzled by the conceit of
 “it till I accidentally fell into the reading of an
 “old romance translated out of the French, which
 “gives an account of a very beautiful woman who
 “was found in a wilderness, and is called in the
 “French, ‘La Belle Sauvage,’ and is everywhere
 “translated by our countrymen ‘The Bell Savage.’”

The sign was originally a bell hung within a hoop, as proved by a grant in the time of Henry VI, when John French gives to Joan French, his mother,

“All that tenement or Inn called Savage Inn,
 “otherwise called ‘Bell on the Hoop.’”

Here also lived Grinling Gibbons,

“Where he carved a pot of flowers, which
 “shook surprisingly with the motion of the coaches
 “that passed by.”—*Walpole*.

1839 & 1841—
Purchase.

BALLS POND ESTATE.

12 Almshouses.

5 Shops.

20 Houses.

Rental £126.

(NOTE.—The proceeds of the sales of Houses in Fleet Lane and White Street have been invested in New £3 Per Cents. and East Indian Railway Stock.)

Irish Estate.

In the reign of Queen Elizabeth a rebellion broke out in Ulster, in the North of Ireland, and that province became in a great measure depopulated, and laid waste. Upon the suppression of this rebellion a great portion of the province became vested in the Crown by forfeiture.

In 1613 King James, in consideration of a payment of £60,000, granted a Charter to the City of London for the settlement in Ulster of English and Scotch Protestants. The new settlement having been thus made, the towns built and the lands settled, the whole (with the exception of the indivisible Estates, which are still retained by the Irish Society), was mapped out by the Irish Society, and divided as nearly as could be between the Irish Society and the twelve Livery Companies, who had contributed £40,000 of the amount agreed to be paid to King James. The Companies drew lots for their several shares, which, on receiving, they each named from themselves, their armorial bearings, or other circumstances. Thus the *Salter's* have their "Manor of Sal"; the Ironmongers the "Manor of Lizard" (Lizards being that Company's Supporters); the Drapers have the "Manor of Drapers," and so on. The following is a list of the twelve Companies:—The Clothworkers, Drapers, Fishmongers, Goldsmiths, Grocers, Haberdashers,

Ironmongers, Salters, Skinners, Mercers, Merchant Tailors, and Vintners.

The Charter granted by King James was revoked by King Charles the First by a Sentence of the Star Chamber; but Charles the Second granted a new Charter confirming that granted by King James, and restored to the City of London (represented by the Irish Society) and the twelve Livery Companies all former privileges and estates; and it is under this Charter that the Irish Society continues to act as a Corporation.

The portion of the £60,000 paid to King James, expended by the Livery Companies, was, as previously stated, £40,000, and at a Court of Common Council held in 1613, it was agreed to be divided into twelve equal proportions of £3,368 6s. 8d. to each of the principal Companies, each of which should stand as Chief, and to whom should be joined so many of the smaller Companies as, according to their contributions, would make up the full amount paid.

The Cutlers' Company contributed towards the amount paid by the Salters' Company, whose share of the £40,000 was made up in the following manner:

Salters' Company	...	...	£1,954
Dyers' Company	...	...	580
Saddlers' Company	...	...	390
Cutlers' Company	...	...	225
Joiners' Company	...	...	164
Woolmen's Company	...	...	20
			<hr/>
			£3,333

The Salters paid the remaining 6s. 8d. to balance the account. The share of the Woolmen's Company (who have become extinct) has since been purchased by the Salters' Company; and the share of the Saddlers' Company has recently been sold.

By a survey made in 1618 the County of Londonderry contains 409,309 acres. The Salters' portion

of the estate appears to contain upwards of 11,000 Irish acres, and of which the Cutlers' Company have a claim of a fifteenth part, the exact proportions being, viz.:—

Salters' Company	...	£59	4	7	per cent.
Dyers' Company	...	17	8	0	„
Saddlers' Company	...	11	14	0	„
Cutlers' Company	...	6	15	0	„
Joiners' Company	...	4	18	5	„
		<hr/>			
		£100	0	0	

By a survey (1836) the Salters' estate is stated to consist of the town of Magherafelt and the adjacent county. It is six miles in length, and on an average three miles in breadth. It is bounded on the east by the Vintners' estate and Lock Neagh, south-west by the Drapers' estate, and north-east by Castle Down.

The estate is managed exclusively by the Salters' Company, who make a yearly report of their proceedings, with a statement of accounts. From these reports and those of other companies may be readily seen the great improvements which have, from time to time, been effected, the additional happiness conferred thereby on the tenantry, and the general high state of prosperity there, so that it has become a recognised fact that the territory of the Irish Society and the estates of the Livery Companies of London are the best managed and most prosperous portions of Ireland.

The present income of the Cutlers' Company from their share of the estate is about £400 a year.

In the year 1838 the various Livery Companies instituted proceedings in Chancery against the Irish Society to obtain a Decree that the Society were the Trustees for the Companies, and for an account of their Stewardship of the Estates. (Mr. Pemberton appeared as Counsel for the Cutlers.) After a hearing, which lasted several days, the Master of the Rolls (Lord Langdale) dismissed the Bill.

Bequests to the Cutlers' Company.

In this year Mr. John Davies (Citizen and Cutler, of London), by his will charged his Estate, known as the Bowes Farm, Edmonton, with the payment of a sum of Thirty Shillings per annum for ever to the Cutlers' Company "for the use of the Poor Men of the said Company." 1533.

In this year Mr. W. H. Pepys (Citizen and Cutler, of London), presented the Cutlers' Company with a sum of £100 in trust as a permanent fund, the amount to be invested, and the interest to be applied in the purchase of Coals yearly for the Pensioners of the Company. 1840.

In this year Mr. John Peacock (Proprietor of the London Tavern), by his Will bequeathed the sum of £100 to the Cutlers' Company. 1850.

Charities of the Company.

In the year 1838, the Court being desirous in their prosperity to add to the welfare and comfort of their poorer Brethren and Sisters, resolved to build some Almshouses, and they accordingly voted a sum of money for that purpose. A piece of land was purchased in the Ball's Pond Road, Islington, and twelve Almshouses erected thereon. The Court grant the use of them to decayed Freemen and Liverymen and their Widows. Almshouses.

Pensions are also granted by the Court to deserving Freemen, Liverymen, and their Widows, if upon strict enquiry they are found deserving thereof. Pensions.

Scale of Pensions. Per annum.

To Freemen and Widows (under 60)	... £14
To ditto (above 60)	22
To Liverymen and Widows (under 60) ...	22
To ditto (above 60)	30

Considerable sums are also given to distressed persons related to former Freemen or Liverymen of

the Company, and large amounts are also voted every year to various Hospitals and other Charities. In 1880 the sum thus expended was £911 15s. In fact, it may be truly said of the Cutlers' Company as of the other Livery Companies of London,

“That, while they feasted all the great, they
never forgot the poor or small.”

Exhibitions to Cambridge and Oxford.

Exhibitions.

The Cutlers' Company have one Exhibition or Scholarship to Cambridge by the Will of Mr. Thomas Bucke, in 1566. The yearly amount has been increased from £3 6s. 8d. to £30.

The Company have also one Exhibition or Scholarship to Cambridge, and also

One Exhibition or Scholarship to Oxford by the Will of Mr. John Craythorne. The yearly amount has in each case been increased from £3 6s. 8d. to £20.

In the year 1860 the Court resolved, in consequence of the increased rental from the property bequeathed by Mr. Bucke and Mr. Craythorne, to create a new Exhibition or Scholarship at Cambridge, of the annual value of £20.

The Company are accustomed to continue the payment of these Exhibitions until the occurrence of one of the following events:—

- 1st.—Ceasing to reside.
- 2nd.—Obtaining the M.A. degree.
- 3rd.—Obtaining a Fellowship or preferment to the amount of £10 a year.

Property of the Company.

A list of the most interesting items of Plate, Books, Pictures, and miscellaneous articles belonging to the Company.

PLATE.

- A Cup and Cover, Silver Gilt, bequeathed by Mr. G. Clarke, in 1616.
- A Salt, in form of Elephant, presented by Mr. R. Carrington, in 1658.
- A Silver Cup, presented by Mr. W. Davis, Hall Marked, 1689.
- Four Silver Spoons, presented by Mr. R. Grimes, Master, in 1674.
- Six ditto, presented by Mr. R. Blaney, Master, in 1679.
- Four ditto, presented by Mr. D. Wilson, Master, in 1688.
- Three ditto, presented by Mr. R. Kittlebuter, Master, in 1692.
- A Punch Ladle, presented by Mr. N. Slack, in 1712.
- Two Silver Punch Bowls.
- Two Silver Gilt Rose Water Dishes.
- One Antique Silver Goblet.
- Two Silver Loving Cups and Covers.
- One Ancient Silver Wine Strainer.
- One large Silver Tankard, bequeathed by Mr. W. Lund, in 1872.
- Two Silver Wine Coolers, bequeathed by Mr. W. Lund, in 1872.
- One large gilt Rose Water Dish, presented by Mr. Henry Graves, in 1872.
- A Beadle's Staff, with Silver Elephant and Castle, (ancient.)

BOOKS.

- A Bible with Silver Clasps, 1541.
- Stowe's History of London, presented by Mr. Pepys.
- Churches of London, ditto.

Beauties of England and Wales, presented by Mr. Pepys.

Smollett's History of England, ditto.

History of the River Thames.

Microcosm of London.

Owen Jones—Illuminated Middle Ages—presented by Mr. J. Tyler.

Owen Jones—Grammar of Ornament—presented by Mr. J. Tyler.

PAINTINGS.

Portrait of Henry V.

Portrait of Queen Anne.

Portrait of Alderman Winchester, a Master of the Company, Lord Mayor of London.

Portrait of Alderman Sir R. W. Carden, M.P., a Master of the Company, Lord Mayor of London.

Three Portraits of Mrs. Craythorne.

ENGRAVINGS.

Portrait of Queen Anne, James I, and the Lord High Treasurer, Godolphin.

Procession of Queen Anne through the Strand in 1714.

Photograph Album, with Portraits of past Masters of the Company.

MISCELLANEOUS.

One large Hammer for Master, 1603.

Snuff Box, presented by Mr. Underwood.

Various Flags and Shields, with Coats of Arms.

Plan of London, presented by the City Solicitor in 1832.

Plan of the Ball's Pond Estate.

Plans of the various Estates.

Plan of the Irish Estate.

Technical Education.

The Company fully recognising the great importance of Technical Education, or a knowledge of the principles of science as applied to the materials used in the staple manufactures of the country, after a full consideration of the subject, decided not to take any part in the proposed scheme for the establishment of a College for the teaching of Technical Education generally, but that they would adopt measures calculated to promote and sustain an advancement and improvement in the manufacture of cutlery and of those engaged in the cutlery trade.

With this object in view, the Company resolved to endeavour to create a spirit of competition among the manufacturers of cutlery, and also among their workmen and apprentices, and they also arranged that such competition should be divided into three classes as follows :—

Class 1.—General Cutlery.

Class 2.—Surgical Cutlery.

Class 3.—Sword Cutlery.

And that the prizes for manufacturers should consist of the Freedom of the Company, gold, silver, and bronze Medals and Certificates of Merit, and for artisans and apprentices an illuminated Certificate of Merit, with a sum of money to be awarded in such amounts as the judges might think proper amongst such of the competitors as should gain Certificates of Merit.

The standard of merit in the award of the judges with regard to manufacturers was settled as follows :—

Class 1.—General excellence of material, temper, and workmanship, novelty of style, practical and general utility of goods.

Class 2.—The general excellence of material, temper, and workmanship, practical and general utility of articles.

Class 3.—The general excellence of material, temper, and workmanship.

And for artisans and apprentices the standard of merit in the several classes of forgers, grinders, and glaziers, and as to fitters, were fixed as follows :—

The neatness with which each article is made and framed, so as to give the artisan following him as little difficulty in finishing as possible.

The best finished work, having regard to its practical utility.

The fitting of screws, fitting and finishing of handles, and adjustment of work so as to act perfectly.

The Company also decided to exhibit any specimens of ancient cutlery which might be lent for the purpose, so that a comparison might be made with that of modern manufacture.

A large number of circulars, with conditions of competition, were addressed to manufacturers in the three classes of the cutlery trade, inviting their co-operation, and also that of their workmen and apprentices in the proposed competition.

The result was that the following large number agreed to compete in the several classes :—

General Cutlery.—Class I.

Manufacturers	...	...	...	24
Artisans and apprentices	...	...	...	24
				—48

Surgical Cutlery.—Class II.

Manufacturers	...	...	...	13
Artisans and apprentices	...	...	...	30
				—43

Sword Cutlery.—Class III.

Manufacturers	...	...	...	3
				—
Total	...	...	...	94
				—

In addition to those taking part in the competition, the Company received offers of the loan of a large number of interesting specimens of ancient arms and cutlery for exhibition from their Royal Highnesses the Prince of Wales and the Duke of Edinburgh, also from the Baron de Cosson and other gentlemen, and from the South Kensington Museum and the Sheffield Public Museum.

The following Judges were appointed :—

For Surgical Cutlery—

Sir H. Thompson, Mr. Bryant, Mr. Parry.

For Sword Cutlery—

Lieut.-General B. Walker, C.B., Lieut.-Col.
G. Vernon.

For General Cutlery—

Messrs. Plum, Pigall, Slatter, Wing.

The Exhibition was arranged to be held in the Hall of the Company, and to be opened on the 1st of May, 1879, by the Right Honourable the Earl of Carnarvon.

The Judges awarded one Gold Medal, 12 Silver Medals, and 10 Certificates of Merit to various manufacturers ; and 28 Certificates of Merit to artisans and apprentices, together with money prizes, amounting to the sum of £95.

A large number of articles intimately connected with the cutlery trade were also exhibited.

The Exhibition was open to the public on the 2nd of May, and continued open until the 17th of that month, on two evenings in the week until nine o'clock to give a better opportunity to the artisan class to attend. During the time named about 15,000 persons inspected the various exhibits.

On the 7th of May His Royal Highness Prince Leopold, and on the 9th May their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh, attended and inspected with much interest the various objects of competition and exhibition.

The Prizes to the successful competitors were distributed on the 17th of May.

The Company have received the gratifying information and assurance that the result of the competition has been a large amount of benefit to the cutlery trade, and that it has given a stimulus to continued improvement, not only in the quality of the cutlery but also in the knowledge and skill of the manufacturers and artisans engaged in its production.

A copy of the report of the Committee of the Company engaged in the carrying out of the various details of the competition, with lists of the awards of the judges and a statement of the various expenses incurred by the Company in connection therewith, has been presented to each Liveryman of the Company.

A tablet has been placed in Cutlers' Hall to commemorate the Exhibition, with the following inscription:—

This Tablet is erected by the Worshipful Company of Cutlers to commemorate the success of the first Exhibition of Cutlery, held in this Hall, under the auspices of the Company, and of the visits thereto of their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh and Prince Leopold.

The Exhibition was opened by the Right Honourable the Earl of Carnarvon on the 1st of May, 1879, and was inspected by nearly 15,000 visitors.—T. G. Pocock, Master. W. A. Oldaker, A. Pocock, Wardens. J. Thorne, R. J. Cheeswright, Hon. Secretaries.

AS TO APPRENTICES.

During the past year the Company, feeling the great importance of providing for a continuity of skilled artisans in the Cutlery trade, resolved to appropriate a sum of £100 a year for the purpose of apprenticing two boys to members of the cutlery trade in London. Public notice of the intention of the Company was given, and two respectable youths

were in December last apprenticed, at the Hall of the Company, to master Cutlers in London. The following are the general terms upon which the apprenticeships are based :—

1. Forty pounds to be paid each master in two instalments, viz., Twenty Pounds at the time of apprenticeship, and Twenty Pounds at the expiration of the third year of the term.
2. Ten Pounds to be paid to each apprentice, either during or at the expiration of the apprenticeship, at the discretion of the Company.
3. The Freedom of the Company to be presented to each apprentice on satisfactory proof being given of his efficiency in the craft and of good behaviour during his apprenticeship.
4. The wages to be paid to the apprentice to be determined at the time of apprenticing between the master, the apprentice, his father or guardian, and the Company.

AS TO LECTURES.

The Company being desirous to render further assistance in the development of Technical Education, and a scientific knowledge of the materials used in the cutlery trade, have arranged for a series of papers to be read at Cutlers' Hall upon subjects intimately connected therewith.

On the 1st of December last, Sir Henry Bessemer, C.E., F.R.S., read a Paper "On the Manufacture and Uses of Steel, with special reference to its employment for Edge Tools."

On the 1st of February last, A. K. Huntington, Esq. (Professor of Metallurgy, King's College, London), read a Paper on "Steel, its Composition and Properties."

On the 2nd of March last, Henry Seebohm, Esq. (a well-known Steel Manufacturer of Sheffield) read a Paper on the "Uses of Steel."

It is intended to make arrangements for other Papers to be read in due course.

The Company invited the attendance and the cordial co-operation of manufacturers of Cutlery, and through them that of their workmen and apprentices in this movement; and it is gratifying to the Company to recognise from the large attendance of masters, artisans, and apprentices, and the attention paid by them during the reading of the papers, the great interest felt by them in the various technical matters connected with their trade brought under their notice by the talented and scientific gentlemen to whom allusion has been made. It may be added that a copy of each of the Papers read is presented to every person attending the Lectures.

Cutlers' Hall.

Cutlers' Hall.

The Hall of the Cutlers' Company is situate in Cloak Lane, Dowgate Hill. The site was purchased by the Company in the year 1451, and the first Hall erected there shortly afterwards. It was destroyed in the Great Fire of London, in 1666, when

A key of Fire ran all along the Shore,

And frightened all the River with a blaze.—*Dryden*.

It was remodelled and improved in the year 1853.

Maitland in his *History of London* (1750), in describing the Vintry Ward, refers to the Cutlers' Hall as one of the remarkable places of interest in the Ward.

CUTLERS' HALL.—In Horse Bridge Street is the Cutlers' Hall. Richard de Wilchale in 1295 confirmed to Paul Butelar this house and other edifices, which some time Lawrence Gisors and his son Peter Gisors did possess, and afterwards Hugo de Hingham, and lieth between the tenement of the said Richard towards the South, and the Lane called Horse Shoe Bridge towards the North, and

between the way called Paternoster Church on the West, and the Course of Walbrook on the East; paying yearly one clove of Gilliflowers at Easter, and to the Priory and Convent of St. Mary Overy 6s. This house some time belonged to Simon Dolefly, Grocer, Mayor in the year 1359. They of this Company were (of old time) three Arts or sorts of Workmen, to wit—The *first* were Smiths, Forgers of Blades, and, therefore, called Bladers. And divers of them proved wealthy men, as namely Walter Nele, Blader, one of the Sheriffs, the 12th of King Edward the Third, deceased, 1352, and buried in St. James, Garlickhithe. He left lands for the mending of Highways about London, between Newgate and Wycombe and elsewhere. The *second* were Makers of Hafts and otherwise Garnishers of Blades. The *third* sort were Sheath Makers for Swords, Daggers, and Knives. In the tenth of Henry IV certain Ordinances were made betwixt the Bladers and other Cutlers. And in the reign of Henry V they were all three Companies drawn into one Fraternity or Brotherhood by the name of Cutlers.

The general business of the Company is carried on at the Hall, and the Court and Committee Meetings are likewise held there.

In the Dining Hall, the great hospitality for which the Cutlers' Company has ever been and still is distinguished, continues to be lavishly dispensed. One of the most time-honoured toasts or sentiments drank with enthusiasm at the Cutlers' Feasts is that in which the sympathy of every Liverymen towards the Company is expressed. May it continue to be used for many years to come. It is a sentiment also with which I trust I may not inappropriately conclude my short history of the Cutlers' Company.

“The Cutlers' Company—

May it flourish root and branch.”

THE END.





APPENDIX A.

A Copy of the Charter

Granted to the Cutlers' Company by King James the First, on the
8th July, 1607.

James by the Grace of God King of
England Scotland France and Ireland
Defender of the Faith &c. **To all Men**
to whom these Presents shall come Greeting

Whereas our noble Progenitor HENRY after
the Conquest the Sixth having information that by
reason of the losses and unfortunate casualties that
happened to the Men of the Mystery of the Cutlers of
the City of London by Sea they then were not able to
live but by the benevolence of well disposed people
whereof he having a princely consideration did by his
LETTERS PATENT of his especial grace grant
and give license to the foresaid Cutlers of London
that they for ever after should have one perpetual
Commonaltie of themselves. And that the said
Commonaltie should choose and make Richard Wellom
Master of the Commonaltie and Misterie aforesaid
and Martyn Goddard and John Chadd Wardens of the
foresaid Commonaltie and Misterie for One year and
so everie yeare One Master and Two Wardens of the
Men of the foresaid Commonaltie and Misterie to
survey and govern the said Misterie and Commonaltie
and all persons and their Works for ever. And further

Recitals.

of his more grace did grant and give licence for him and his heirs to the foresaid Master Wardens and Commonaltie that they and their Successors Masters Wardens and Commonaltie of the Misterie aforesaid for the time being might purchase lands tenements and rents to the value of Twenty pounds per annum as by the said Letters Patents more at large appeareth AND WHEREAS the said Letters Patents have been by divers of our noble Progenitors since that time allowed and confirmed as by the several confirmations thereof likewise more at large appears. NOW KNOW YE that we at the humble petition of the Company of Cutlers of London and the Suburbs thereof for the better rule and government of the said Company and every of them and for the avoiding of divers deceits and abuses used in the said Mysterie to the great damage and loss of our loving Subjects of our special Grace certain knowledge and mere motion have willed ordained constituted and granted. And by these presents for us our Heirs and Successors DO will ordain constitute declare and grant that all and singular the persons of the Commonaltie and Mysterie of the Cutlers of the City of London and the Suburbs thereof for ever hereafter are and shall be by virtue of these presents ONE BODY Corporate and Politique in deed and name by the name "Of Master Wardens and Commonaltie of the Misterie of Cutlers of London " and them by the name of "Master Wardens and Commonaltie of the Misterie of Cutlers of London." WE do by these Presents for us our Heirs and Successors really and fully create make ordain constitute and declare one Body Corporate and Politick in deed and name. And that by the same name of Master Wardens and Commonaltie of the Misterie of Cutlers of London they shall and may have perpetual succession. And that they and their successors by the name of Master Wardens and Commonaltie of the Misterie of Cutlers of London

Corporate
Name.

shall and may be for ever hereafter persons able and capable in Law to purchase have receive and enjoy manors messuages lands tenements liberties privileges Jurisdictions Franchises and other Hereditaments whatsoever of whatsoever kind nature or qualitie they be to them and their Successors in Fee and perpetuity or for term of live lives year or years or otherwise in what sort soever. And also all manner of goods chattels and things whatsoever of what name nature or quality soever they be. And also to give grant sett lett alien assign and dispose of manors messuages lands tenements and other hereditaments goods chattels and things whatsoever. And also to do and execute all and singular other acts and things whatsoever by the name aforesaid. And that by the same name of Master Wardens and Commonaltie of the Mysterie of Cutlers of London they shall and may be able to plead and be impleaded to answer and be answered unto to defend and be defended in all Courts and places whatsoever and before whatsoever Judge or Justices or other persons and Officers of us our heirs or successors in all and singular actions plaints pleas suits matters and demands of whatsoever kind nature or quality they be in the same manner and form as any other our liege Subjects of this our Realm of England being persons able and capable in Law or any other Body Corporate and Politick within this Realm of England can or may have purchase receive possess enjoy retain give grant set let alien assign and dispose plead and be impleaded answer and be answered unto defend and be defended do permit or execute. And that they the said Master Wardens and Commonaltie of the Mysterie of Cutlers of London for ever hereafter shall and may have a COMMON SEAL to serve for the causes and business of them and their successors and that it shall be lawful for them and their successors to change break alter and to make anew the said Seal from time to time at their pleasure as they shall think

May hold
Lands.

Common
Seal.

best. And further we will and by these presents for us our Heirs and Successors we do grant to the said Master Wardens and Commonaltie of the Misterie of the Cutlers of London aforesaid and their Successors that for ever hereafter there shall and may be one of the Commonaltie or Misterie aforesaid in manner and form hereafter in these presents mentioned chosen and named who shall be and be called the Master of the said Commonaltie of the Misterie of the Cutlers of London And that likewise there shall and may be two of the said Commonaltie and Misterie in manner and form hereafter in these presents expressed chosen and named which shall be and be called the Wardens of the said Commonaltie of the Mysterie of the Cutlers of London. And also that there shall and may be Twenty of the Commonaltie aforesaid in manner and form hereafter expressed named and sworn which shall be and be called the Assistants of the said Commonaltie of the Misterie of the Cutlers of London. And from time to time shall be assisting and aiding to the Master and Wardens of the said Commonaltie and Mysterie aforesaid for the time being in all causes matters and business touching or concerning the said Commonaltie. And further We will and by these presents for us our heirs aud successors DO grant to the said Master Wardens and Commonaltie of the Misterie of the Cutlers of London and their Successors That it shall and may be lawful for the said Master and Wardens of the said Commonaltie and Misterie for the time being or to the greater part of them calling to them the most part of the Assistants for the time being as often as they shall think it needful or expedient to assemble convocate and congregate themselves together at and in their Hall or any other convenient place within the City of London or the Suburbs thereof. And there from time to time and at all convenient times hereafter to entreate consult determine constitute ordain and make any constitutions

Master.

Wardens.

Assistants.

To make Ordinances.

laws ordinances statutes articles and orders whatsoever which to them or the greater part of them as is aforesaid shall seem reasonable profitable or requisite for touching or concerning the good estate rule order or government of the said Commonaltie of the said Misterie of the said Cutlers as to them according to their wisdom and discretions shall seem convenient. And in what order or manner the said Master Wardens and Commonaltie of the said Misterie and all other person and persons using the said Misterie within the City of London and the Suburbs thereof and within three miles of the same City shall demean and behave themselves as well in all and singular matters causes and things touching or concerning the said Misterie or anything thereunto appertaining. As also in their several offices ministries functions and business touching or concerning the said Commonaltie and Misterie as aforesaid. And all and singular such pains penalties punishments and imprisonment of body or by fine or amerciaments or by any of them against or upon any offender or offenders which shall transgress break or violate the said constitutions statutes laws ordinances or orders so to be made ordained and established or heretofore made ordained and established or any of them to impose provide and limit and the same and every part thereof to ask levie take and receive by way of distress or otherwise by any lawful ways or means of or against the said offender or offenders his or their goods or chattels or any of them as the cause shall require. And as to the Master Wardens and Assistants of the said Commonaltie and Mysterie or the greater part of them in manner as aforesaid shall seem most convenient or expedient. All which laws orders ordinances constitutions institutions and articles so made or to be made ordained and established. We will and by these presents for us our heirs and successors do grant and command to be from time to time and at all times

To lay
Penalties.

Master
Appointed.

Wardens
Appointed.

kept obeyed and performed in all things as the same ought to be upon the pains penalties and punishments in the same to be imposed inflicted and limited. So as the same laws statutes articles and ordinances pains penalties imprisonments fine and amerciements be reasonable and not repugnant or contrary to the laws and statutes of this our Realm of England nor the laudable customs of our City of London. And for the better executing of this our grant in that behalf we have assigned named constituted and made and by these presents for us our heirs and successors DO assign create constitute and make our well beloved Subject Thomas Porter Citizen and Cutler of London to be the present Master of the said Commonaltie and Misterie of the Cutlers of London to continue in the same Office until the Even of the Holy Trinity next following the date hereof (if the said Thomas Porter shall so long live). And from until another of the said Commonaltie and Misterie shall be chosen and named into the Office of Master of the said Commonaltie and Misterie in due manner according to the ordinances and provisions hereafter in these presents mentioned and expressed. And also we have assigned named constituted and made and by these presents for us our heirs and successors we do assign name constitute and make our well beloved Subjects William Bailey and Thomas Cheshire Citizens and Cutlers of London to be the present Wardens of the said Commonaltie and Misterie of Cutlers of London to continue in the said office of Wardens until the said Even of the Holy Trinity (if the said William Bailey and Thomas Cheshire shall so long live). And from thence until two others of the said Commonaltie and Misterie shall be chosen into the said Office of Wardens of the said Commonaltie and Misterie of the Cutlers of London according to the ordinances and provisions in these presents expressed and declared. And we have assigned named constituted

and made and by these presents for us our heirs and successors do assign name constitute and make our well beloved Subjects Richard Hawes Thomas Greene John Gardiner Thomas Asher Oliver Plunkett otherwise Pluckett George Ellye Reginald Greene Christopher Hatfield William Hely John Beeston Henry Addams Edward Androwes Lawrence Evans John Johnson Nathaniel Matthews Miles Banks John Porter and James Tackley Citizens and Cutlers of London to be the first and present Assistants of the said Commonaltie and Misterie of the Cutlers of London to continue in the said Office of Assistants during their natural lives unless they or any one or more of them shall fortune to be removed for evil government or misbehaving of him or themselves in the said office or offices of Assistant or Assistants or for some other reasonable cause. And further We will and by these presents for us our Heirs and Successors We do grant unto the said Master Wardens and Commonaltie of the Misterie of Cutlers of London and their Successors, That the Master Wardens Assistants and Livery of the said Commonaltie and Misterie for the time being or the greater part of them as aforesaid from time to time for ever hereafter shall have full power and authority yearly and every year upon the Even of the Holy Trinity to elect and nominate one of the Freemen of the said Commonaltie and Misterie for one whole year from thence next ensuing and from thence until another of the said Commonaltie and Misterie of the Cutlers of London be chosen to the said Office of Master of the said Commonaltie and Misterie according to the ordinances and provisions in these presents expressed and declared. And that he which shall be so chosen and named into the said Office of Master of the said Commonaltie and Misterie before he be admitted to execute the said Office shall take his corporal oath before the last Master of the said Commonaltie and Misterie his

Assistants
Appointed.

To chuse
Master and
Wardens on
Trinity Eve.

predecessor and the Wardens of the said Commonaltie and Misterie for the time being well and truly to execute the said Office of Master of the said Commonaltie and Misterie in all things concerning the said Office and that after the said oath so as aforesaid to be taken he shall have and exercise the said Office for one whole year from thence next ensuing. And from thence until one other be chosen and sworn in form aforesaid into the said Office of Master of the said Commonaltie and Misterie in manner and form before in these presents expressed. And that likewise they may elect nominate and chuse Two other of the Freemen of the said Commonaltie and Misterie of the Cutlers of London which shall be Wardens for one whole year from thence next ensuing. And from thence until two other of the said Commonaltie and Misterie be chosen and sworn unto the said Office of Wardens of the said Commonaltie and Misterie according to the ordinances and provisions in these presents expressed and declared. And that they which shall be so chosen and named into the Office of Wardens of the said Commonaltie and Misterie of the Cutlers of London before they be admitted to execute the said Office shall take their corporal oaths before the last Master and Wardens of the said Commonaltie and Misterie their last predecessors well and truly to execute the said Office of Wardens in all things touching and concerning the said Office. And that after such oaths so as aforesaid to be taken they shall and may exercise the said Office for one whole year from thence next ensuing and from thence until two others be chosen and sworn in form aforesaid into the said Office of Wardens of the said Commonaltie and Misterie in manner and form before in these presents expressed and declared. And further we will and by these presents for us our heirs and successors DO grant to the said Master Wardens and Commonaltie of the Mysterie of the Cutlers of London and their

successors. That if it shall happen the Master and Wardens of the Commonaltie and Misterie for the time being or any of them to die or otherwise for any reasonable cause to be removed or dismissed from his their or any of their office or offices of Master and Wardens aforesaid or any of them within the year wherein thay or any of them shall be so elected and chosen as is aforesaid. That then and so often it shall be lawful to and for such and so many of the said Master Wardens Assistants and Livery which shall be then living or remaining or the greater part of them at their pleasure to chuse make and swear one other of the said Commonaltie and Misterie to be Master Warden or Wardens of the said Commonaltie and Misterie according to the ordinances and provisions before in these presents expressed and declared to execute and exercise the said Office of Master or the said Offices of Warden or Wardens of the said Commonaltie and Misterie until the said Even of the Holy Trinity then next following first taking their corporal oaths in form as is aforesaid. And so often as the case shall require. And further We will and by these presents for us our heirs and successors we do grant to the said Master Wardens and Commonaltie of the Misterie of Cutlers of London and their successors. That whensoever it happeneth any of the said Assistants of the said Commonaltie and Misterie for the time being to die or to be removed from his or their Office or Offices. All which Assistants and every or any of them we will shall be removeable and to be removed by the said Master Wardens and Assistants of the said Commonaltie and Misterie or the greater part of them in manner as aforesaid for evil government misbehaviour or for any other reasonable cause. That then and so often it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Master Wardens and so many of the Assistants which shall then survive or remain or the greater part of them in manner as aforesaid at their

On death of
Master and
Wardens
others to be
chosen.

On death of
Assistants
others to be
chosen.

will and pleasures from time to time to chuse and name one other or more of the said Commonaltie to be Assistant or Assistants of the said Commonaltie and Misterie in his or their place and stead which shall so happen to die or be removed as is aforesaid. And that he and they which shall be so chosen and named to be Assistant or Assistants of the said Commonaltie and Misterie as aforesaid before that he they or any of them be admitted to his or their execution of the said Office or Offices of Assistant or Assistants shall take their corporal oaths before the Master and Wardens of the said Commonaltie and Misterie for the time being well and truly to execute the said Office or Offices and so as often as the case shall require. And further we will and by these presents for us our heirs and successors do grant to the said Master Wardens and Commonaltie of the Misterie of the Cutlers of London and their successors special license and free and lawful power and authority to have receive and purchase to them and their successors for ever as well of us our heirs and successors as of any the Subject or Subjects of us our heirs or successors whatsoever manors messuages lands tenements rec-tories tythes rents revennues and other possessions and hereditaments whatsoever which are not held of us our heirs and successors immediately in chief nor by Knight's service. So that all the said manors messuages lands tenements and other hereditaments whatsoever so by them to be had perceived or purchased by virtue of these presents do not exceed in the whole the clear yearly value of One hundred marks. The Statute of Lands and Tenements not to be put into Mortmaine or any other Statute Act ordinance provision or restraint or any other thing cause or matter whatsoever to the contrary in anywise notwithstanding. And also we grant and by these presents for us our heirs and successors do give free full and lawful license power and authority to any the Subject or Subjects of

Power to
purchase
Lands or
Estates.

Not to exceed
100 marks
per annum.

us our heirs or successors whatsoever and every of them. That they and every or any of them shall and may be able to give grant assign or by any other lawful ways or means whatsoever alien devise or assign to the said Master Wardens and Commonaltie of the Misterie of the Cutlers of London and their successors any manors messuages lands tenements rectories tythes rents services and other hereditaments whatsoever which are not held of us our heirs or successors immediately in chief nor by Knight's service so that the same manors messuages lands tenements and other hereditaments whatsoever so as aforesaid to be given granted sold aliened or devised do not exceed in the whole the clear yearly value of One hundred marks by the year. The Statute of lands and tenements not to be put into Mortmaine or any other Statute act ordinance provision or restraint or any other cause matter or thing whatsoever to the contrary whereof in anywise notwithstanding. And further we will and by these presents for us our heirs and successors do grant to the said Master Wardens and Commonaltie of the Misterie of Cutlers of London and their successors. That they and their successors shall and may have one honest and discreet person in manner and form hereafter in these presents to be chosen and named which shall be and be called the Clerk of the said Commonaltie and Misterie of Cutlers of London. And we have assigned constituted made named and ordained. And by these presents DO assign constitute make name and ordain our well beloved Subject Thomas Jadwyn to be the first and present Clerk of the said Commonaltie and Misterie of the Cutlers of London to continue in the said Office during the term of his natural life except he shall be removed by the Master Wardens and Assistants for the time being or the greater part of them for evil government or misbehaviour or for any other reasonable cause and that from time to time and at all

Clerk to be
chosen.

times after the death or removing of the said Thomas Jadwyn the Master Wardens and Assistants of the said Commonaltie and Misterie for the time being or the greater part of them shall and may chuse and make one other discreet person to be the Clerk of the said Commonaltie and Misterie. And that the said Clerk now named as also he which shall be chosen and made to be Clerk of the said Commonaltie and Misterie after the death or removing of the said Thomas Jadwyn as is aforesaid shall and may exercise and enjoy the said office of Clerk of the said Commonaltie and Misterie during the good will and pleasure of the Master Wardens and Assistants of the said Commonaltie and Misterie for the time being or the greater part of them in manner as aforesaid. And that every one of the Clerks so named or to be named and appointed from time to time as aforesaid shall take his or their corporal oaths before the Master Wardens and Assistants of the said Commonaltie and Misterie for the time being or the greater part of them well and truly to execute the Office of Clerk of the said Commonaltie and Misterie in all things appertaining to the said Office according to his skill and knowledge. And so from time to time as often as the case shall require.

All benefits
heretofore
granted to
continue for
ever

AND further of our more special grace certain knowledge and mere motion we have granted and confirmed and by these presents for us our heirs and successors we do ratify and confirm unto the said Master Wardens and Commonaltie of the said Commonaltie and Misterie of Cutlers of London and their successors all and all manner of liberties franchises immunities exemptions jurisdictions messuages lands tenements and hereditaments whatsoever which the said Master Wardens and Commonaltie or any of their predecessors by what name or names soever or by virtue of what incorporation soever now have hold use or enjoy or heretofore have had, held used or

enjoyed by reason or force of any the Charters or Letters Patents of any of our Progenitors or Predecessors Kings or Queens of England by any manner of means heretofore made or granted or by any other means right title use custom or prescription heretofore had used or accustomed although the same or any of them heretofore have not been used or have been abused evil used or discontinued. And although the same or any of them heretofore have been forfeited or lost. TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the same messuages lands tenements liberties priviledges franchises jurisdictions and other the premises before by these presents granted unto the said Master Wardens and Commonaltie of Cutlers of London and their successors for ever to be held of us our heirs and successors by such the same and the like rents services and sums of money as the same were formerly holden and not otherwise. WHEREFORE we will and by these presents do strictly charge and command for us our heirs and successors that the said Master Wardens and Commonaltie of the said Commonaltie and Misterie of Cutlers of London and their successors shall and may have hold and enjoy for ever all the said messuages lands tenements liberties authorities jurisdictions and franchises aforesaid according to the tenor and effect of these our Letters Patents without the let or hindrance of us our heirs or successors or of any Justices Sheriffs Bailiffs or other Officers or Ministers of us our heirs or successors whatsoever willing that neither the said Master Wardens Commonaltie nor any of them by reason of the premises or any of them by us our heirs or successors. The Justices Sheriffs Escheators or other Bailiffs or Ministers of us our heirs or successors whatsoever be thereof hindred molested vexed grieved or in anywise troubled. Willing and by these presents charging and commanding as well our Treasurer Chancellor and Barons of our Exchequer at Westminster and other

the Judges and Justices of us our heirs and successors as also our Attorney and Solicitor-General for the time being and every of them and all other our Officers and Ministers whatsoever that neither they nor any of them do prosecute or continue or cause to be prosecuted or continued any writ or summons of Quo Warrants or any other writt writts or process whatsoever against the said Master Wardens and Commonaltie or any of them for any cause thing matter offence claim or usurpation or any of them by them or any of them claimed attempted used had or usurped before the making these presents. Willing also that the said Master Wardens and Commonaltie or any of them by any of the Justices Officers or Ministers aforesaid in or for the due use claim or abuse of any liberties, franchises or jurisdictions within the said City of London or Suburbs thereof before the making of these presents be not molested troubled or hindered or compelled to answer to them or any of them. AND further we will and by these presents for us our heirs and successors for the better order rule and government of all and singular person and persons which now do use or hereafter shall use the Misterie Art or Trade of Cutlers within the said City of London or Suburbs thereof and within three miles of the same City. We do give and grant to the said Master Wardens and Commonaltie of the Commonaltie and Misterie of Cutlers of London and their successors that the said Master Wardens and Assistants of the said Commonaltie and Misterie for the time being for ever hereafter shall have the oversight view search correction and government of all and singular persons whatsoever occupying exercising or using the said Misterie Art or Trade of Cutlers within the said City of London and Suburbs thereof and within three miles of the said City as well within places exempt and not exempt. And shall have power and authority by virtue of these presents according to

To have the government of all using the Trade.

To punish all
offenders.

the laws of the Realm to punish and correct or cause to be punished and corrected Offenders for their offences deceits falsehoods abuses or misdemeanours in the false insufficient or deceitful occupation or use of the Misterie Art or Trade of Cutlers aforesaid according to their demerits in that behalf. WHEREFORE we will and by these presents for us our heirs and successors DO strictly charge and command all singular Mayor Justices Sheriff Constables and all other the Officers Ministers and Subjects of us our heirs and successors whatsoever. That they and every of them be aiding helping assisting and comforting to the said Master Wardens and Assistants of the Commonaltie and Misterie of the Cutlers of London aforesaid for the time being and every of them to do enjoy have and execute all and singular thing and things whatsoever by us before by these presents granted unto the said Master Wardens and Commonaltie aforesaid and every or any part and parcel thereof according to the tenor and true meaning of these presents although express mention of the true yearly value or certainty of the premises or any of them or of any other gifts or grants by us or any of our Progenitors or Predecessors to the foresaid Master Wardens and Commonaltie heretofore made in these presents is not made or any statute act ordinance provision proclamation or restraint to the contrary hereof had made ordained or provided or any other thing cause or matter whatsoever in anywise notwithstanding.

IN WITNESS whereof we have caused these our Letters to be made Patents. WITNESS ourself at Westminster &c., the Eighth day of July in the Fifth year of our Reign of England France and Ireland and of Scotland the Fortieth.

By Writ of Privy Seal

CARTWRIGHT.





APPENDIX B.—A COPY OF THE

Fundamental LaBs and Ordinances

Of the Cutlers' Company, approved by Sir Nathan Wright, Lord Keeper of the Great Seal of England, the Lord High Treasurer Godolphin, and the Chief Justices Sir John Holt and Sir Thomas Trevor, on the 20th March, in the third year of the reign of Queen Anne, 1703.

To all to whom these Presents shall come We SIR NATHAN WRIGHT Knight Lord Keeper of the Great Seal of England SYDNEY LORD GODOLPHIN Lord High Treasurer of England SIR JOHN HOLT Knight Lord Chief Justice of Her Majesty's Court of Queen's Bench and SIR THOMAS TREVOR Knight Lord Chief Justice of Her Majesty's Court of Common Pleas at Westminster send Greeting

Whereas in a Statute made in a Parliament holden at Westminster the Five and Twentieth day of January in the Nineteenth Year of the Reign of King Henry the Seventh made and ordained for the weal and profit of his Subjects

Recitals

IT WAS (amongst other things) ORDAINED established and enacted That no Master Wardens and Fellowships of Crafts or Misteries nor any of them nor any rulers of Guilds or Fraternities should take

upon them to make any acts or ordinances nor to execute any acts or ordinances by them heretofore made in disinherittance or diminution of the King's prerogative or of other nor against the common profit of the people unless the same acts and ordinances be examined and approved by the Chancellor or Treasurer of England or Chief Justices of either Bench or three of them or before the Justices of Assize in the Circuits or progress in the Shire where such acts or ordinances be made upon pain of forfeiture of Forty pounds for every time they do the contrary. As by the same Statute more plainly doth and may appear.

KNOW YE that John Woodcroft Master of the Worshipful Company of Cutlers of the City of London and John Frith and Nicholas Levett Wardens of the said Company of Cutlers having divers orders ordinances and oaths by them ordained devised and made for the conservation good rule and government of their Mystery and Fellowship and afterwards assented confirmed and agreed unto in and by a general Court or Assembly of the said Master Wardens and Commonalty of the Mystery of Cutlers of London aforesaid and intending to put the same in execution for the better rule good order and government of such persons as now do or hereafter shall use and exercise the said Mystery or any part thereof and for the better foresight and reformation to be had and used amongst them not willing in anywise to infringe the said Act of Parliament but desirous in all things to have the same duly observed and kept and desiring also to have the aforesaid orders ordinances and oaths to be from time to time executed amongst the Freemen of the said Company now using or exercising or which shall use or exercise the Art or Mystery of a Cutler within the City of London and Westminster or within three miles of the said City according to the tenor of the said Company's Charters made and granted to them by his

most sacred Majesty King James the First. And thereupon they have exhibited their Petition unto us with a book annexed containing certain ordinances constitutions orders and oaths which they humbly desire may be observed and duly kept and put in execution and humbly beseeching us that all and every the said ordinance constitutions orders and oaths we would peruse and examine and them and every of them correct reform and amend and also allow ratify and approve after due manner and form as by the said Act of Parliament is required. KNOW YE that we will perceiving the said supplication to be good and acceptable by authority of the said Act of Parliament and at and by the desire of the said Master Wardens and Assistants and Commonalty of the said Company. All and every the said orders ordinances constitutions and oaths have examined approved and allowed. WHICH said orders ordinances constitutions and oaths are as follows viz. :—

ORDERS ORDINANCES CONSTITUTIONS
and OATHS made appointed and agreed upon by the Master Wardens and Assistants of the Commonalty of the Mystery of Cutlers of London at a full Court of Assistants or general assembly by them held for that purpose in their Common Hall situate in the Parish of St. Michael Royal in London on Friday the Twelfth day of February in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and two the First year of the Reign of Our Sovereign Lady Ann Queen of England &c. for the well ordering and governing of the said said Society or Company of Master Wardens and Commonalty of the Mystery of Cutlers of London and the Trade and Mystery of a Cutler. And afterwards ordained assented and agreed unto in and by a General Court or Assembly of the said Master Wardens and Commonalty of the Mystery of Cutlers of London called and held in their said Common Hall on

Ordinances.

To call and
hold Courts
of Assistants.

Thursday the Fifteenth day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and three.

IMPRIMIS it is ordained that the Master and Wardens of the Company of Cutlers for the time being or the greater number of them. Whereof the Master and one of the Wardens for the time being to be always present when and as often as it shall seem meet to them and at such fit and convenient place as they shall think fit and proper for that purpose within the City of London or Suburbs thereof shall or may hold or keep Courts which shall be called Courts of Assistants. And unto which Courts all the Assistants for the time being shall be summoned. At which Courts of Assistants the Master Wardens and Assistants of the said Company for the time being or the major part of them (whereof the Master and one of the Wardens for the time being to be present) shall and may hear all such controversies and debates which shall or may happen concerning the said Trade Art and Mystery or any part thereof or amongst the members thereof touching or concerning the said Trade or Mystery or any part thereof and shall and may there also bind and admit Apprentices to their respective members and make free of their Company such as have served Apprenticeships or otherwise as by the ordinances of this Company they are appointed and shall and may also at such Courts debate hear and order such lawful acts and things which shall at any or times appear to the said Master Wardens and Assistants or the greater part of them fit convenient and lawful touching or concerning the said Trade Art or Mystery or relating thereto or for the better ordering or governing of the same. And the said Master Wardens and Assistants or the greater part of them (whereof the Master for the time being and one of the Wardens to be always present) shall and may yearly and every year keep and hold four Quarter Courts which Quarter Courts shall be held and kept

upon some day within one month next following after the Feasts of the Annunciation of our Blessed Virgin Mary the Nativity of St. John Baptist Saint Michael the Archangel and the Birth of our Lord Christ at the election of the Master and Wardens of the said Company for the time being or the greater number of them unto which Courts the Master and Wardens shall summon the members of the said Company at one or more of which Courts all the ordinances and orders of the said Company made or to be made or so many of them as shall be held necessary shall be distinctly and audibly read before the Members of the said Company who shall be there assembled the better to acquaint the said Members with the same.

ALSO it is ordained that every person of the said Company that shall be hereafter elected and chosen into the place or office of Master of the said Company shall before he take upon him to execute the same place give good security by Bond or otherwise as the Master and Wardens and Court of Assistants of the said Company for the time being shall direct and appoint of the penalty of Five hundred pounds with condition not to waste mis-spend or embezzle any of the monies goods or writings which shall be delivered to him or any way come to his hands belonging to the said Company but to deliver and pay the same money goods and writings to the Master of the said Company for the time being when thereunto required by order made at any Court of Assistants to be held for the said Company or otherwise from time to time to pay and dispose of the same as the Court of Assistants shall direct. And that no Master shall be sworn into his Office until such security be given as aforesaid.

Master to
give security.

ALSO IT IS ORDAINED that every person of the said Company that shall be hereafter elected and chosen into the place or office of Rentor of the said Company shall before he take upon him to execute the same place give good Security by Bond or otherwise

Rentor
Warden to
give security.

as the Master and Wardens and Court of Assistants of the said Company for the time being shall direct and appoint of the Penalty of Five hundred pounds with condition not to waste mis-spend or embezzle any of the money goods or writings which shall be delivered to him or any way come to his hands belonging to the said Company but to deliver and pay the same monies goods and writings to the Master of the said Company for the time being when thereunto required by order made at any Court of Assistants to be held for the said Company or otherwise from time to time pay and dispose of the same as the Court of Assistants shall direct. And that no person shall be admitted into the said office place or employment until such security given as aforesaid.

Old Master
and Rentor
to account by
the 20th
October
yearly.

ALSO IT IS ORDAINED that by the Twentieth Day of the Month of October next after every election of new Master and Rentor the last Master and Rentor and every of them respectively shall give a just true and perfect account in writing unto such person or persons of the Court of Assistants as shall be appointed by the Master Wardens and Assistants or the greater number of them Auditors for that purpose of for and concerning all and all manner of jewels plate money linnen charters writings books and evidences and of all other goods and utensils profits and commodities whatsoever appertaining to the said Company and which did at any time or times come to his their or any of their hands charge or custody. And shall deliver to the said new Master all and every the said plate jewels and money together with his or their key or keys and all other things whatsoever then being or remaining in his or their hands custody or possession or which he or they shall be justly charged to have received or possessed to the use of the said Company or otherwise appertaining or belong to the said Company by any ways or means whatsoever without embezzlement or waste or in default thereof that the

security so by him given shall forthwith be put in suit against him.

ALSO IT IS ORDAINED that the said Company of Cutlers and their Successors for ever shall have one or more chests with three locks and keys thereunto belonging wherein shall be kept the Common Seal of the said Company and all such money plate jewels goods charters writings evidences ordinances and all other things whatsoever belonging to the said Company which chest or chests shall also stand and remain at their Common Hall or such other convenient place or places as shall seem meet and convenient to the Master Wardens and Court of Assistants for the time being or the greater number of them and that the said Master for the time being and the two eldest Assistants that have been Masters shall each of them keep one of the said keys and if either the present Master or the two eldest Assistants shall happen to be sick or shall travel far out of the City of London to dwell or sojourn or otherwise shall absent him or themselves for the space of one month then in such case every such Master and Assistant respectively shall and may intrust and leave his or their key or keys with some other person or persons being of the number of the Assistants so that the said Company's affairs may not suffer prejudice for want thereof on pain to forfeit and pay for every such default the sum of Thirteen shillings and four pence of current money to and for the use of the Company and in default of payment thereof to be recovered and levied in such manner as is hereinafter mentioned.

ALSO IT IS ORDAINED that the Common Seal of the said Company shall not be set or put to any Leases Demises Annuities Grants or Gifts of what nature or kind soever of any house or houses lands tenements or other thing or things whatsoever appertaining or belonging or which ought to belong by purchase donation or otherwise to the Company of

Chest to be kept for Seal Master and Wardens to keep the Seal.

Not to put Seal without order—Fine £500 and disability.

Cutlers aforesaid or to any Deed Obligation Bills or Specialities for any sum or sums of money without an order in writing first had and made by the Court of Assistants for that purpose. And that every person in whose power or custody the said Common Seal shall be and that shall sett or putt or consent to sett or putt the same to any deed or writing contrary to the ordinances aforesaid or the true meaning hereof shall for every such offence forfeit and pay to the Master Wardens and Commonalty of the said Company for the time being for the use of the said Company the sum of Five hundred pounds to be in default of payment thereof recovered or levied in such manner as is hereinbefore mentioned and shall from thenceforth be amoved discharged and disabled from being either Master Warden or Assistant of the said Company for ever.

To chuse new
Master on
Trinity Eve
or within 7
days.

ALSO IT IS ORDAINED that from henceforth yearly for ever it shall be lawful for the Master Wardens Assistants and Livery of the said Company of Cutlers or the more part of them for the time being and their Successors from time to time to assemble and meet together at their Common Hall or other convenient place within the City of London or the Liberties thereof upon the Eve of the Holy Trinity yearly and every year for ever or on some other convenient day as shall be thought expedient within seven days then following. And shall proceed to the election of one Master and two Wardens to serve as Master and Wardens for the next ensuing year. Which election or choice shall be in manner following First The Master Wardens and Assistants for the time being or the greater number of them shall agree upon and present to the Livery there assembled the names in writing of two or three meet and sufficient persons being of the number of the then present Master Wardens and Assistants of the said Company after which the said Master Wardens Assistants and Livery

for the time being or so many of them as shall be there present shall by majority of voices upon the question put or by their marks with a pen upon paper where their names are set elect and chuse one of those two or three persons so presented in writing to be Master of the said Company of Cutlers for one whole year from thence next following and until another be elected chosen and sworn into the said Office of Master. And for more orderly proceeding the youngest Liveryman then present is to give the first voice or mark or score with a pen for such of the persons in competition as himself best liketh and so ascending orderly to every other Liveryman Assistant Warden and Master until every one hath given his voice or mark. And in case it shall happen that the voices or marks so given or made shall be found to be even in number that is to say one not exceeding the other that then the present Master shall have a double voice or mark for the final determination of the election of the new Master which person so elected and chosen shall upon the first Thursday after Midsummer Day then next following or within seven days of the same take the Oath of Master hereafter in these presents mentioned and shall rule and govern as Master of the said Company of Cutlers for one whole year and until another Master be in like manner elected chosen and sworn into the said Office. And if any person so elected and chosen Master of the said Company shall refuse or delay to hold and execute the said place of Master of the said Company and shall refuse or delay to take the oath for that purpose hereafter in these presents expressed and ordained and shall have no reasonable or just let or impediment that may hinder him so to do. That then the said person so refusing or delaying shall forfeit and pay to the then Master Wardens and Commonalty the sum of Twenty pounds of lawful money of England to be employed to and for the use of the said Company and to be

Mode of
Election.

Oath day
first Thursday
after
Midsummer
Day or within
7 days (now
Wednesday)

Fine on
refusal to
serve.

levied and recovered as is hereinafter mentioned. And the Master Wardens and Assistants for the time being shall forthwith proceed to a new choice of some other meet person to the said place as before in the case of the Master's refusal and upon refusal to hold or be sworn as aforesaid shall from time to time proceed as is before directed.

ALSO IT IS ORDAINED that immediately after the election of every new Master as aforesaid the last Master and Wardens Assistants of the said Company or the greater number of them for the time being in like manner as is before directed shall present to the Livery there assembled the names in writing of two or three meet persons of the then Wardens and Assistants out of which two or three pereons so presented the Master Wardens and Assistants for the time being or the greater number of them and so many of the Livery of the said Company as shall be then present shall elect and chuse by their most voices or marks as aforesaid one of the said persons so nominated to be first or upper Warden of the said Company of Cutlers for one year from thence next ensuing the youngest of the Livery then present giving the first voice or mark and so ascending to the eldest as aforesaid. And if it shall happen that the number of voices or marks given or marked on the behalf of the several persons so presented as aforesaid to be even and equal. THEN the last Master shall have a double voice or mark for the final determination thereof as is aforesaid. WHICH person so elected and chosen shall also take the oaths for such Office appointed as aforesaid. And being sworn shall continue in the said place and office for one whole year and until election be made of some other person to serve in the said place or office and be thereunto sworn as aforesaid. And if any person or persons so elected and chosen first or upper Warden shall refuse or delay to hold or execute the said first or upper Warden of

To chuse
Upper
Warden
after Master
chosen.

the said Company or shall refuse or delay to take the Oath for that purpose hereafter in these presents expressed and ordained and shall have no reasonable or just let or impediment that may hinder him or them so to do. That then the said person or persons so refusing or delaying shall forfeit and pay to the then Master Wardens and Commonalty the sum of Ten pounds of lawful money of England to be employed to or for the use of the said Company and to be levied and recovered as is hereinafter mentioned. AND the said Master Wardens Assistants and Livery for the time being forthwith shall and may proceed to a new choice of some one other meet person to the said place as before in case of the Warden's refusal and upon refusal to hold or be sworn as aforesaid shall from time to time proceed as is before directed.

Fine.

ALSO IT is further ordained That immediately after the election of the upper Warden as aforesaid the said Master Wardens and Assistants or the greater number of them for the time being shall nominate two or three of the present Wardens or Assistants such as to themselves shall seem meet out of which numbers the Master Wardens Assistants and Livery or so many of them as shall be there present shall elect and chuse in manner aforesaid one meet person to be under Warden of the said Company of Cutlers and who shall remain in the said Office of under Warden for one whole year then next ensuing and from thence until another be chosen and sworn in like manner into the said office and no longer. But if any person or persons so elected or chosen shall refuse or delay to take upon him or them the execution of the said office or to take the oath in that behalf appointed in these presents within the time before limited and shall have no just or reasonable let or impediment that may hinder him or them so to do that then every such person or persons so refusing or delaying shall forfeit and pay to the Master the sum of Ten

To chuse
Under
Warden.

Fine.

pounds of lawful money of England to be employed to and for the use of the said Company and to be levied and recovered as is hereinafter mentioned. AND then the Master Wardens Assistants and Livery so many of them as shall be there present of the said Company for the time being shall and may forthwith proceed to another election or elections of such other person or persons in his or their stead and shall in all respects from time to time further proceed in like manner as is before appointed.

Present
Assistants to
remain.

AND for that it is convenient and necessary that the Master and Wardens of the said Company shall always be sufficiently assisted with the advice and good counsel of the most grave and experienced persons of the said Company IT IS therefore hereby further ORDAINED that all persons who do at this present bear or shall hereafter bear or execute the office or place of Assistants of the said Company shall from henceforth be and remain Assistants to the Master and Wardens for the time being and of the Common Counsel of the said Company. But however shall be and are hereby made amoveable from time to time by the said Master Wardens or Assistants or the greater number of them from being one of the Assistants of the said Company at the will and pleasure of the said Master Wardens and Assistants or the greater number of them who are hereby empowered so to do from time to time and to elect and chuse others in their places and steads as unto them or the greater number of them shall seem most conducive to the welfare and good government of the said Society.

Old Master
and Wardens
to continue
Assistants.

AND it is hereby further ORDAINED that the new Master and Wardens of the said Company and such others as shall hereafter be Master and Wardens when others shall be chosen in their rooms shall continue Assistants to the then Master and Wardens and of the Common Counsel of the said Company until they shall happen to die or be removed from being

Assistants by the said Master Wardens and Assistants or the greater number of them as is before mentioned.

ALSO IT IS ORDAINED that the Master Wardens and Assistants of the said Company of Cutlers for the time being or the greater number of them shall and may from time to time hereafter elect and make choice of such of the most able and sufficient persons of the said Company as they or the greater number of them shall think fit to be Assistants to the said Master and Wardens and of the Common Counsel of the said Company and that every person and persons so chosen as aforesaid shall before he or they take upon him or them such office or place of an Assistant or sit in any Court of Assistants take his and their several corporal Oaths before the said Master Wardens and Assistants for the time being or the greater number of them to be administered by the Clerk of the said Company for the time being according to the form hereafter in these presents for that purpose expressed and that every person so chosen to be an Assistant after his being sworn shall pay the usual and accustomed sum of Five pounds for the use of the Company and also the usual fees to the Clerk and Beadle of the said Company for their attendance and if any person or persons so chosen and elected Assistants to the said Master and Wardens shall refuse and delay to hold and execute the said place of an Assistant or shall refuse or delay to take the oath for that purpose hereafter in these presents expressed and ordained and shall have no reasonable or just let or impediment that may hinder him so to do. That then the said person so refusing or delaying shall forfeit and pay to the then Master Wardens and Commonalty the sum of Five pounds of lawful English money to be employed to and for the use of the said Company and to be levied and recovered as is hereinafter mentioned. And the Master Wardens and Assistants for the time being forthwith shall and may

Assistants to
be chosen.

Fine.

proceed to a new choice of some one or more meet persons to be Assistants of the said Company in case of refusal and upon refusal to hold or be sworn as aforesaid shall proceed as is before directed.

Rentor to be appointed.

ALSO it is further ORDAINED that immediately upon or after the auditing the last Masters and Rentors Accounts yearly and every year for ever hereafter it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Master and Wardens or any two of them the Master being always one to elect and chuse one able and discreet person of the said Company to be the Rentor of the said Company of Cutlers to receive and collect the rents of and belonging to the said Company and who shall continue in the said Office of Rentor for one whole year thence next ensuing. But before every such person as shall be so as aforesaid chosen into the said Office of Rentor takes upon him the execution of the said Office he shall give security to the Company as is hereinbefore expressed and also pay to the Master of the Company to the use of the said Company the accustomed and usual fine of Four pounds and to the Clerk his usual fees for bonds and other papers belonging to the Rentor and if any person or persons so elected and chosen shall refuse or delay to take upon him the execution of the said Office and to give security in this behalf appointed in these presents within one month after he shall be so chosen into the said Office and shall have no just or reasonable let or impediment that may hinder him so to do. That then every such person so refusing or delaying shall forfeit and pay to the Master Wardens and Commonalty of the said Company for the use of the said Company the sum of Ten pounds of lawful money of England to be recovered and received in manner as is hereinafter expressed.

Liverymen to be admitted.

ALSO IT IS ORDAINED that when and as often as it shall be thought fit by the Master Wardens and Assistants of the said Company for the time

being or the greater number of them they shall and may elect chuse and admit into the Livery or Cloathing of the said Company such person and persons free of the said Company as they shall think fit and meet. Which person or persons so elected and chosen to be of the Livery and Cloathing of the said Company shall pay to the Master of the said Company for the use of the said Company the usual and accustomed fine of Ten pounds of good and lawful money of England and to the Clerk and Beadle their usual fees after which the Master and Wardens in order shall give to such person and persons which shall be so elected and chosen his and their hands saying these words viz.: We admit you to the Society of Livery of the Company of Cutlers.

ALSO IT IS ORDAINED that the Master and Wardens of the said Company of Cutlers or any of them with so many of the Assistants of the said Company as shall from time to time be by the said Master and Wardens or any two or more of them nominated and appointed in that behalf shall and may four times in the year yearly (or oftener if need shall require) at convenient time and times in the day time in a peaceable manner enter into the shops warehouses and workhouses of any person or persons Members of the said Commonalty using the said Mystery or that do or shall make for sale or sell anything thereunto appertaining and there search and survey the goods wares and other things appertaining to the said Mystery within the said City or Suburbs thereof or any other place within three miles of the said City and upon such search shall and may take an account of the marks and workmanship of all and every such person or persons making or working for sale selling or which hereafter shall make or work for sale or sell any manner of swords daggers rapiers hangers wood-knives penknives razors or surgeons instruments scissars small knives skeynes hilts pummels battle

Power to
search Mem-
bers' shops
for deceitful
wares, and to
fine the
offenders.

axes halberts or any other weapons or blades or other things belonging to the said Mystery. And in their said searches they shall find any false or deceitful work or workmanship or any other matter of misdemeanour or abuse concerning the said Mystery within the said City or Limits aforesaid that then it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Master Wardens and Assistants to assess some competent and reasonable fine upon every such offender or offenders for every such offence so it exceed not the sum of Forty shillings for any one offence. To the end that thereby others may be warned from making or selling bad or deceitful wares to the prejudice of Her Majesty's loving subjects. And if any such person or persons using or that shall use or exercise the said Mystery of Cutlers or thereunto belonging or appertaining within the Limits aforesaid by any manner of means shall be found resisting disobedient to the said Master Wardens or Assistants or any five four or more of them contrary to the true intent and meaning of these ordinances in any of their searches hereafter to be made or in the due execution of any of these ordinances or offices. That then it shall and may be lawful for the said Master Wardens and Assistants or the more part of them whereof the said Master and one Warden to be there to assess and set some reasonable pain on every such disobedient person or persons so offending for every time that he or they shall so offend the same several fines and pains to be levied employed and bestowed to such uses as the fines hereinbefore appointed are ordered and directed.

All Members
to pay taxes
imposed by
Master
Wardens and
Assistants.

ALSO IT IS ORDAINED that every person and persons that now doth or hereafter shall use the said Mystery or anything thereunto belonging being free of the Company of the said Mystery within the Limits aforesaid shall be contributory bear and pay unto the said Master for the time being or to such person or persons as he shall appoint and authorize to receive

the same all such reasonable sums of money for taxes tallages and other impositions as well ordinary as extraordinary as shall be thought good and reasonable to be assessed or imposed upon him or them by the said Master Wardens and Assistants or the more part of them for the time being for all such needful affairs causes and things whatsoever of and for the honour common state wealth and good of the said Company of the said Mystery according to their abilities and every one that shall refuse to pay and discharge the same portion of money which shall be so reasonably assessed rated or taxed upon shall forfeit and pay to the Master Wardens and Commonalty such sum and sums of money not exceeding Forty shillings as shall be assessed for that purpose for every time that he or they shall so refuse contrary to the true meaning of this ordinance to be levied and disposed of in such manner and to such uses as is hereinafter mentioned.

ALSO that every year yearly the Master Wardens and Assistants of the said Society for the time being or the greater number of them may elect and chuse such five persons free of the said Company as they shall think fit to be Stewards of the said Company who shall have and bear the Title and Office of Stewards of the said Company and shall find and provide at their own mutual and equal costs and charges one competent and sufficient Feast or Dinner as the Master and Wardens and Court of Assistants or the greater number of them for the time being shall direct and appoint which shall be called the Stewards Dinner and to be kept at the Common Hall of the said Company or such other place as to the said Master Wardens and Court of Assistants shall seem meet. And always on such day yearly and every year as the Lord Mayor of the City of London is or shall be presented at Westminster commonly called Lord Mayor's Day which Dinner or Feast shall be for the Master Wardens Assistants and Livery of the said

Stewards to
be appointed.

Company unless it shall be otherwise thought fit and ordered by the Master Wardens and Assistants or the greater number of them. And in case any person or persons free of the said Company shall refuse to hold the said office or place of Steward or fail to make one such competent and sufficient Dinner or Feast as aforesaid or to bear and pay their proportionable charges or shares thereof that then every of the said persons which shall make default shall respectively forfeit and pay to the Master Wardens and Commonalty of the said Company the sum of Ten Pounds current money as a Fine or Mulct for such his or their refusal or neglect to be in default of payment thereof recovered and levied in such manner as is hereafter mentioned.

Fine.

Quarterage.

ALSO IT IS ORDAINED that every person and persons members of the said Company making for sale or selling anything belonging to the said Mystery within the Limits aforesaid or otherwise being free of the said Company shall upon Summons of the Beadle attend on every Quarter Court Day that shall be kept and held by the said Master Wardens and Assistants or at any other convenient time at the discretion of the Master Wardens at the Common Hall of the said Company for the time being or such other person as shall be appointed to receive the same. All their Quarterage money which shall be due and payable by them according to the proportions and rates following that is to say—The Master Wardens Assistants and Livery of the said Company and such as have been Masters Wardens Assistants and Liverymen of the said Company shall pay the sum of Twelve pence a quarter. And all other persons Members of the said Company shall pay the sum of Nine pence a quarter towards the support and maintenance of the said Company and defraying the necessary expenses of the same and every person who shall refuse or delay to pay the same Quarterage as aforesaid shall forfeit and

pay to the Master Wardens and Commonalty of the said Company the sum of Three shillings and four pence for every such default of payment thereof to be recovered or levied in such manner as is hereinafter mentioned.

ALSO IT IS ORDAINED that if any person or persons of the said Mystery or which hereafter shall be free thereof shall at any time or times hereafter depart into the country and be resident and dwelling out of the City of London or Liberties of the same. That yet notwithstanding every such person or persons so long as he shall continue his Freedom shall bear and pay all manner of charges belonging to the said Company as if he were dwelling and resident within the Liberties aforesaid. And also shall bear such Office in the said Company as he shall be called unto or else pay such fines as by virtue of these ordinances shall be imposed upon him for the same.

ALSO for the avoiding of divers abuses and deceits heretofore used by divers persons in counterfeiting of another man's mark to give credit to his own bad wares whereby many of Her Majesty's Subjects are oftentimes much abused and deceived and to the end that every one may use his own proper mark by which his wares may be known and receive commendations or disgrace as he deserveth IT IS ORDAINED that every person and persons members of the said Commonalty using or which shall hereafter use the said Mystery or anything thereunto belonging within the Liberties aforesaid shall within fourteen days after admonition or warning to him or them in that behalf given present and deliver to the Master and Wardens of the said Mystery for the time being into their Common Hall to be registered and recorded one peculiar and selected mark solely and properly of itself and for himself without adding thereunto any other man's mark or any other mark in part or in all which said mark and none other he shall strike and set upon the

All charges to be paid.

Every Member a Cutler to use his own mark,—and to register it.

blade of every knife razor or instruments of what sorts soever that he shall make or cause to be made to be sold without diminution or addition in part or in all (except such marks as are generally sent out of the country). AND FURTHER to the end that every man may know what wares are made within the limits aforesaid every such person of the said profession shall likewise strike upon his said blade a little above his own mark the mark of a Dagger. And who so offendeth in any part of this ordinance shall forfeit and pay for every offence to the Master Wardens and Commonalty of the said Company to the use of the said Company the sum of Forty shillings to be levied and recovered as aforesaid.

No Sword
Cutler to buy
or sell foreign
Hilts.

ALSO that no member of the said Commonalty using or exercising the Art Mystery or Trade of a Sword Cutler shall at any time or times hereafter buy or contract for or cause to be bought or contracted for directly or indirectly to or for his or their own use or uses or to or for the use of any other person or persons whatsoever to vend utter or sell again in his or their shop or shops or elsewhere any manner of hilts pommels lockets chapes sheaths scabbards or handles which are or shall be ready made and sent or brought over from beyond the seas upon the like pain of forfeiture of Forty shillings of like money for every such offence in that behalf unto the said Master Wardens and Commonalty of the said Company and to be paid by him or them so offending or in default thereof to be sued for levied and recovered as herein is mentioned.

No Sword
Cutler to
employ any
but such as
have passed
the rules of
the Company.

ALSO that no such person or persons using or exercising the Art Trade or Mystery of a Sword Cutler do or shall employ or set on work or cause to be employed or set on work any person or whatsoever using the several Trades or Workmanships before mentioned or any of them until such time as he or they so to be employed or set on work shall have submitted to the orders rules and ordinances of the

Company of Cutlers aforesaid upon pain of forfeiture of Forty shillings of like money for every such offence in that behalf unto the said Master Wardens and Commonalty and to be paid by him or them so offending or in default thereof to be sued for levied and recovered as hereinafter is mentioned.

ALSO IT IS ORDAINED that the Master of the said Company for the time being shall and may at any place and time as he shall think fit give directions to the Clerk of the said Company for the time being to bind Apprentice or Apprentices to any the member or members of the said Company and make free such person and persons as shall be approved of by the Master with one or both the Wardens and two or three more old Masters. And the said Master and Wardens may call to their assistance such of the Assistants of the said Company as to them shall seem meet to treat commune and debate of such other matters and things as shall appear reasonable and convenient for the good of the said Company and to report the same to the next Court of Assistants and all persons whatsoever free of the said Company who shall be warned by the Beadle or other Officer of the said Company unto such meeting or meetings and shall not appear accordingly every such person not having a reasonable excuse to be approved by the Master and Wardens or two of them shall forfeit and pay to the Master Wardens and Commonalty of the said Company for the use of the said Company the sum of One shilling for every such default to be in default of payment thereof recovered and levied in such manner as is hereinafter mentioned.

ALSO for the better avoiding of disorders noise and confusion in all Courts of Assistants IT IS ORDAINED that every member of the said Court shall always keep silence at the commandment or desire of the Master. And when any matter or thing shall be moved or debated in any Court it shall not be

Apprentices
to be bound.

Conduct of
business.

lawful for more than one to speak at one time to the matter in debate and all debates propositions and discourses shall be addressed to the Master or him who shall possess the Chair only. That so the opinion and judgment of every member may be heard and known without any interruption. And that every person (except the Master who shall at any time speak as aforesaid) shall speak bareheaded addressing his discourse to the said Master. And that if any Assistant shall be commanded silence by the Master he or they shall not speak again to that point in debate without leave of the Master first obtained upon pain to forfeit and pay to the Master Wardens and Commonalty of the said Company for the use of the said Company for every such offence One shilling to be in default of payment thereof recovered or levied in such manner as is hereinafter mentioned.

Members to
meet in their
Livery
Gowns.

ALSO IT IS ORDAINED that all those who shall be of the Livery or Cloathing of the said Company shall from time to time upon all summonses by the Beadle meet at such time and place as shall be appointed in their Livery Gowns and Hoods and shall attend the Lord Mayor and Aldermen of this Honorable City upon every solemn occasion as is used and accustomed by other Companies of London and all and every person and persons of the Livery or Cloathing aforesaid who shall make default of appearance at the time and place to be appointed and in manner aforesaid or who shall depart from any such meeting or service without leave obtained of the Master of the said Company for the time being shall for every such default forfeit and pay to the Master and Wardens and Commonalty of the said Company for the use of the said Company the sum of Two shillings and six pence of current money to be in default of payment thereof recovered or levied as is hereinafter mentioned.

ALSO IT IS ORDAINED that from henceforth no Member of this Company shall retain any person

or persons to be his Apprentice or Apprentices upon liking above one month but shall present the said Apprentice or Apprentices before the Master of the said Company for the time being to be examined and allowed or refused and being allowed shall bind every Apprentice and Apprentices by Indenture which Indentures are to be made by the Clerk of the said Company only who shall also register in a Book to be kept for that purpose every such Apprentice with the time of his being bound and that every person who shall present any Apprentice shall upon his being allowed pay to the Master of the said Company the ancient and customary sums of lawful money of England to the use of the Company and to the Clerk and Beadle of the said Company their usual fees. And that if any person or persons Members of the said Company shall at any time or times hereafter bind or cause to be bound to him or them any one or more Apprentice or Apprentices by himself or any Scrivener or other person or persons whatsoever other than by the Clerk of the said Company for the time being. That then every such person and persons so offending shall for every such default forfeit and pay to the Master Wardens and Commonalty of the said Company for the use of the said Company the sum of Forty shillings of lawful money of England to be in default of payment thereof recovered or levied as is hereinafter mentioned.

ALSO IT IS ORDAINED that no person or persons of the said Company of Cutlers shall permit or suffer by his countenance or encouragement any person or persons whatsoever not free of the said City to use or exercise the said Art or Trade of a Cutler nor admit any person not free of the City and not having served Seven years to one of the Mystery to be Co-partner with any such Member of the said Company upon pain that every Member of the said Company that shall do the contrary shall forfeit and

Members not to keep an Apprentice without being bound.

None but Freemen to use the Trade.

pay to the Master Wardens and Commonalty of the said Company for the time being for the use of the said Company the sum of Twenty shillings a month for every month that any member of the said Company shall do the contrary which forfeitures to be in default of payment thereof recovered or levied as is hereinafter mentioned.

Fines.

ALSO IT IS ORDAINED that every person and persons that shall have served Seven years to a Cutler and shall refuse to appear to any Court of Assistants to be held for the said Company and to be made free thereof being allowed fit so to be by the Master Wardens and Assistants of the said Company. That then every such person so refusing shall forfeit and pay to the Master Wardens and Commonalty of the said Company for the use of the said Company the sum of Ten shillings current money of England for every default to be in default of payment thereof recovered or levied as is hereinafter mentioned.

No Member
to behave
improperly.

ALSO it is further ORDERED and ORDAINED that no person or persons free of the said Company shall at any time hereafter use any indecent speeches unto or shall revile abuse or defame in words or otherwise the Master Wardens and Assistants. But shall at all times hereafter well and honestly demean him and themselves and be of good will and behaviour as well in their words as deeds and shall be tractable conformable and obedient unto all and every the lawful orders and ordinances already made or hereafter to be made and lawfully ordained for the well ordering and good government of the said Art Mystery and Trade and of the Freeman of the said Company. Neither shall any Freeman or Freeman of this Society at any time or times hereafter be wilful obstinate or disobedient unto or make any private assemblies or secret attempts upon or against the Master Wardens and Assistants of the said Company for the time being or any of them to the hindrance or disturbance of the

due execution of their said Offices or the violation or breach of any of the lawful ordinances contained in these presents. And whoever shall offend in any part of this present ordinance shall forfeit and pay to the Master Wardens and Commonalty of the said Company for the time being to the use of the said Society such reasonable sum and sums of money as shall be imposed on him or them by the Master Wardens and Assistants of the said Company for the time being or the greater number of them assembled in a Court of Assistants to be holden for the said Society whereof the said Master for the time being to be one for every such offence according to the quality thereof so as the same exceed not the sum of Forty shillings for every one offence to be in default of payment thereof recovered or levied in such manner as is hereinafter appointed.

ALSO it is hereby further ORDERED and ORDAINED that if any persons that now is or that hereafter shall be free of the said Company or use or exercise the Art of a Cutler within the Cities of London or Westminster or the Suburbs or Liberties thereof or within three miles of the said City shall after notice and demand thereof made by appointment of the Master and Wardens of the said Company or any two of them for the time being delay defer or refuse to pay any of the aforesaid respective penalties forfeitures duties fines payments or sums of money so as aforesaid in and by the above mentioned orders and ordinances or any of them severally and respectively forfeited rated set taxed imposed or assessed upon any such persons for and concerning the premises or for the offending breaking or disobeying any order or ordinance herein expressed and comprised whereby any such penalty forfeitures duties fines payments or sums of money is or shall be forfeited rated taxed set imposed or assessed upon such persons for such cause or offence respectively. That then it shall and may

Recovery of
Penalties.

be lawful to and for the Master Wardens and Commonalty of the Mystery of the Cutlers of London to sue for and recover the same by Action of Debt or Action upon the Case to be brought for the same in the name of the Master Wardens and Commonalty of the Mystery of Cutlers of London in any of Her Majesty's Courts of Record. Or it shall be lawful for the said Master Wardens and Commonalty by order of a Court of Assistants to levy and distrain for the same by any Member Beadle or other Officer of the said Society upon the goods and chattels of the person or persons chargeable with the said penalties or forfeitures payments or sums of money respectively rendering the overplus thereof to the offender if any there shall be.

By action at
Law.

AND it is further ORDERED that all fines forfeitures and penalties herein imposed or set or hereafter to be forfeited set or imposed for breach of any of the orders or ordinances aforesaid or herein contained shall and may be sued for and recovered and levied by action of debt or of the case in any Court of Record or by distress or distresses as from time to time shall be thought fit and advised.

Assistants
may remit
Penalties.

ALSO IT IS ORDERED and ORDAINED that it shall and may be lawful to and for the Master Wardens and Assistants of the Company for the time being or the greater number of them whereof the Master for the time being to be always one if they in their good discretion shall see cause to compound mitigate lessen remit or discharge any fine or fines forfeitures penalties of any such person or persons that shall at any time or times hereafter become offenders or defaulters in any of the before mentioned Bye Laws or any other Bye Laws and Ordinances of this Company.

A Clerk to be
chosen.

ALSO IT IS ORDAINED that the Master Wardens and Assistants of the said Company or the

greater number of them for the time being shall or may from time to time when and as often as it shall be expedient and necessary nominate elect and chuse one discreet honest and sufficient Clerk for the entering and registering of all decrees ordinances acts agreements conclusions orders and things made or to be made in their Assemblies and Courts concerning the Trade Art or Mystery of the said Company of Cutlers and to do and perform all other things which shall be requisite and appertaining to the said office. And that such person as is or shall be so chosen as aforesaid may continue in the said office until he shall be removed by the Master Wardens and Assistants for the time being or the greater number of them for evil government misbehaviour or for any other reasonable cause. Which person so elected and named from time to time shall take the Oath before the Master Wardens and Assistants of the said Company for the time being or the greater number of them as is hereafter in these presents for that purpose mentioned.

ALSO IT IS ORDAINED that the Master and Wardens of the said Mystery (or the greater part of them) together with the consent of the greater part of the said Assistants of the said Mystery for the time being shall from time to time when and as often as to them shall seem meet and expedient elect and chuse one or more honest and meet person or persons to be their Beadle or Beadles who shall be at all times attendant upon the said Master Wardens and Assistants at their lawfu! commandments. And also to summon and warn all and every person and persons of the said Mystery at their commandments for and concerning the affairs and business of the said Mystery and to make return to them of their answers in that behalf.

AND FORASMUCH as by the Charter of Incorporation to the said Company of Cutlers granted certain Oaths are enjoined to be administered to the

A Beadle to
be chosen.

Oaths.

Master Wardens Assistants Livery Freemen and Clerk of the said Company for the time being upon their respective elections and admittance.

In Witness whereof WE the said the LORD HIGH TREASURER and CHIEF JUSTICES of either Bench have hereunto subscribed our names and put our Seals the 20th day of March Anno 1703.

GODOLPHIN.

J. HOLT.

THOMAS TREVOR.



London.

1066

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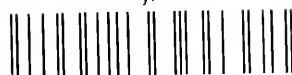
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